Hafa Adai!

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DPH eyes increase in medical referral allowance. PAGE 5

55 Pacific birds added to list of 'migratory birds' PAGE 6

Revised budget: $137M

House Ways and Means to revive 'unpaid holidays' on top of 'austerity Fridays'

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Acting Gov. Eloy S. Inos informed lawmakers in a closed-door meeting yesterday that the year-ago projected revenue of $150 million for Fiscal Year 2010 needs to be reduced to $137 million.

House Ways and Means Committee chair Rep. Ramon Basa (Cov-Saipan), Senate President Paul A. Manglona (R-Rota), and Rep. Eli Cabrera R-Saipan) confirmed this with *Saipan Tribune* last night.

The reduced revenue

See REVISED on Page 4

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

ONLY THORN AMONG THE ROSES

Acting Gov. Eloy S. Inos, center, shares a light moment with members of the CNMI Women's Organization led by president Florine Hofschneider shortly before signing a proclamation declaring March 2010 CNMI Women's Month and March 8 CNMI Women's Day, during a ceremony on Capital Hill yesterday afternoon. House Vice Speaker Felicidad Ogumoro (Cov-Saipan), Sen. Jovita Taimanao (Ind-Rota), Rep. Teresita Santos (Ind-Rota) are among the group's prominent members.

$75M needed to retire land claims; $13M in receivables

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Acting Public Lands Secretary Oscar M. Babauta, left, shakes hands with Commonwealth Ports Authority board vice chair Thomas "Kiyu" Villagomez, right, during a public hearing held by the Senate Committee on Executive Appointments and Governmental Investigations on Babauta's nomination, on Capital Hill yesterday morning.

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

The Department of Public Lands needs some $75 million to retire all land claims in the CNMI, even as it continues to see a decline in revenue due to investors closing businesses and canceling their land leases, acting Public Lands Secretary Oscar M. Babauta disclosed yesterday.

Adding to the toxic mix of challenges faced by DPL is some $13 million in re-

See $75M on Page 4

Francisco C. Ada passes away

Loss of NMI's first lt. governor mourned; flags flown at half-staff

SCHEDULE

NIGHTLY ROSARY:	Kristo Rai Church, 7pm
DAILY MASS:	Kristo Rai Church, 6am, 9 days
FUNERAL:	"Tentatively" set for March 10

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

The CNMI's first lieutenant governor, Francisco Castro Ada, passed away yesterday morning due to a lingering illness. He was 75.

Ada, who was also the district administrator for the islands during the Trust Territory days in the early 1970s, was surrounded by his wife Ines, their seven children and relatives when he passed away shortly before 10am at the Commonwealth Health Center in Garapan, according to

See FRANCISCO on Page 4

Ada

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OPINION METER

This week's poll:
Should the CNMI set up its own islandwide tsunami warning system?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

INSIDE

Book Translation

A Northern Marianas College faculty member has published his first book translation.

LOCAL...Page 13

Twin Tragedy

Tsunami sweeps away entire towns on the Chilean coast.

WORLD...Page 16

The Bachelor

Jake Pavelka has chosen Vienna Giraldi on the ABC reality show "The Bachelor."

LIFE & STYLE...Page 21

Local

Distribution of permanent umbrella permits continue

On Monday, the CNMI Department of Commerce began replacing all temporary umbrella permits that were issued to foreign investors and foreign students on or before Nov. 27, 2009. The distribution of permits will continue to take place at the Department of Labor, Afetna Building, San Antonio, up to Friday, March 12, 2010.

As of Monday, only about 30 of the expected 62 scheduled permit holders appeared to pick up their replacements and/or Foreign National I.D. cards. Throughout the next two weeks, Commerce is expected to release an average of 69 permits per day.

SCHEDULE OF PERMIT PICKUP

Commerce permits will only be released from 1pm to 5pm in batches, based on last names, as per dates listed below:

Wednesday, March 3, 2010	J and K
Thursday, March 4, 2010	L
Friday, March 5, 2010	M, N, O, P, Q and R
Monday, March 8, 2010	S, T, U, and V
Tuesday, March 9, 2010	W and X
Wednesday, March 10, 2010	Y and Z
Thursday, March 11, 2010	Make up day for those who missed their scheduled date
Friday, March 12, 2010	Make up day for those who missed their scheduled date

Permit holders are required to surrender their temporary or originally issued umbrella permits in exchange for the replacement permit. Note that permits (both Foreign National I.D. (formerly known as immigration entry permits) and/or umbrella) will only be released to the actual permit holders as they will be required to acknowledge receipt of their permits. Proof of identification will be required prior to the release of permits. "Please be sure to bring your passports or proper photo identification cards with you. Proof of payment for the Registration Fee of $25 is also required prior to release of any permit," Commerce said.

All umbrella permit holders intending to maintain status with the CNMI government will also need to visit Labor or Commerce to update their umbrella permits prior to revocation date (located on the mid-lefthand side of the umbrella permit), to avoid revocation of umbrella permit.

For more information and any future updates, visit the department's Web site at www.commerce.gov.mp. ***(PR)***

DPS settles woman's conspiracy suit

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The Department of Public Safety has settled a lawsuit filed in federal court by a Korean woman against DPS and some police officers whom she had accused of conspiring to destroy evidence to prevent the prosecution of a drunk motorist.

The U.S. District Court for the NMI dismissed on Friday Ae Ja Elliot Park's lawsuit against DPS, Police Sgt. Anthony Macaranas, Police Officer Jarrod Manglona, and former police officer Michael Langdon.

Alex R. Munson signed the dismissal order on Friday, his last day as a federal court judge.

The terms and conditions of the settlement were kept confidential.

Munson said that during a conference held Feb. 18, the court was informed that Park and DPS, Macaranas, Manglona, and Langdon had reached a settlement, except for Park's claims for costs and attorney's fees.

The judge approved the settlement but retained jurisdiction to decide Park's claims for costs and attorney's fees.

Park and Norbert Duenas Babauta were involved in a head-on collision on 16 Highway in Papago on Feb. 12, 2006. Both were taken to the hospital.

Park asserted that Babauta was drunk at the time of the accident, the officers knew that he was drunk, and that they did not investigate his intoxication because Babauta is local.

Some legal issues were then brought to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. In particular, Munson found that Park sufficiently alleged an equal protection claim and a conspiracy and obstruction of justice claim against the officers. The judge also concluded that the officers weren't entitled to qualified immunity.

The Ninth Circuit affirmed Munson's ruling.

Man allegedly beats up girlfriend

A man allegedly assaulted his girlfriend with a knife during an argument over a food stamp on Saipan Monday night.

Elvin Nicky, 35, was arrested for assault with a dangerous weapon, assault and battery, and disturbing the peace.

Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth Govendo imposed a $30,000 cash bail for Nicky's temporary liberty. Govendo set the preliminary hearing for March 9 at 1:30pm.

Police Officer I Jonathan Decena said that Nicky had asked his girlfriend to give him a food stamp but she refused, triggering the argument.

Nicky allegedly grabbed the victim by the hair and slapped her on the forehead using a knife. The victim sustained scratches on the forehead and fingers. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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Fund board urged to join suit vs Merrill Lynch

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Instead of siding with Merrill Lynch, the NMI Retirement Fund's board of trustees should join the case against the investment consultant to strengthen the lawsuit against it.

Mariano Taitano, one of three plaintiffs in the case filed against Merrill Lynch last year, said during the Commonwealth Retirees Association meeting on Thursday that he needs the help of the Fund board.

"We need your help. The Fund should be joining with us against Merrill Lynch. We need the Fund to agree to become a plaintiff in the case so we will have a strong case," Taitano told the crowd, asking them to lobby and convince each Fund trustee to do the right thing for Commonwealth retirees.

The Fund's trustees voted earlier not to side with the plaintiffs in the case.

"Because we could not get the Fund to side with us in October last year, we had to name the trustees as defendants. But we can make them plaintiffs now if they will agree," Taitano said.

Taitano believes it is not the fault of the trustees that Merrill Lynch overcharged the Fund because the investment consultant kept its fees hidden.

"It is also not the fault of the trustees that Merrill Lynch's negligence caused the Fund to lose so much money…but it will be the trustees' fault if they do not act," he said.

Taitano, Roman Tudela, and Patricia Guerrero had accused the investment consultant of charging the Fund excessive amounts and undisclosed fees. They also alleged that it gave bad financial advice that resulted in great losses in the Fund's investments.

Tatitano cited that in October 2003, the investment consultant advised the Fund to invest 75 percent of its money in equities, resulting in millions of losses. "We believe that was negligent," he said.

Other cases involving Merrill Lynch's alleged overcharges were cited in the meeting.

"We are not alone. The attorneys we are working with represent 23 different funds across the U.S. in cases filed against Merrill Lynch," Taitano said, adding that the consultant has already been found guilty in other cases in the United States.

He cited a case in 2009 when the Securities and Exchange Commission entered an order against Merrill Lynch for failing to disclose its fees. The investment consultant was fined $1 million, he said.

"When our Fund was worth $450 million, we were paying about $585,000 per year that we did not know about to Merrill Lynch," Taitano said.

In six years, the amount would reach about $3.5 million in improperly charged fees, Taitano added. "We hope to go back to the beginning and we could recover $20 million or more for the Fund," he said.

Fund board chair Sixto Igisomar said yesterday he could not comment on the issue as the case is in litigation. Igisomar said information about the Fund's payments to Merrill Lynch is available in its audit reports, which are posted on its Web site.

During last week's three-day money managers meeting at the Hyatt Regency Saipan, Merrill Lynch reported that the Fund has had positive investment earnings in the 22 years of the program—from the initial $18.5 million in March 1987 to a little over $335 million as of December 2009.

Of the 22-year period, there were only five years when the Fund posted a loss in its investment earnings, which means that 16 of the 22 years all had posted positive investment earnings.

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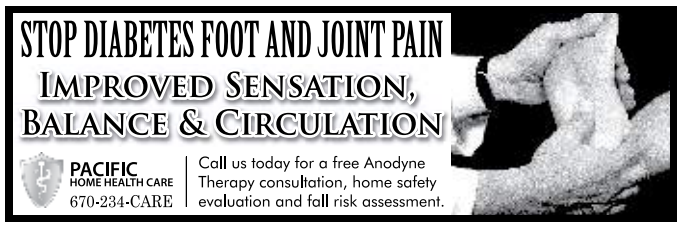
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DPS chief suspends cop in alleged domestic violence

Police Commissioner Santiago Tudela suspended yesterday a police officer who was arrested over the weekend for allegedly shooting two rounds of his gun during a fight with his common-law wife at their house.

Tudela told *Saipan Tribune* that Police Officer 1 Kelani Vincent Pangelinan of Patrol Section has been suspended without pay effective yesterday.

Pangelinan may likely be terminated from the department if he is found guilty in court, he said.

"I don't like that kind of behavior in the department," Tudela said. "I'm not the one who hired him."

Pangelinan was arrested on Sunday night on charges of assault with a dangerous weapon, assault and battery, criminal mischief, disturbing the peace, illegal possession of firearms, kidnapping, and sexual assault in the first degree.

Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth Govendo imposed a $100,000 cash bail.

Pangelinan allegedly accused his common-law wife of having an affair. The argument began inside their vehicle.

At their house, the defendant allegedly threw a wine bottle through the window, bit the victim's fingers, and fired a gun.

Public Notice

To: All Aliens in the CNMI

All aliens in the CNMI are hereby notified that Federal Labor Ombudsman's Office will conduct a question and answer session regarding the P. L. 110-229 and employment under the federal laws in the CNMI. If you have questions regarding the newly implemented above federal laws, please come and get your question answered by the Federal Labor Ombudsman Pam Brown on Thursday, March 04, 2010 at 6:00 pm, at the American Memorial Park Amphitheater, Garapan, Saipan, MP 96950.

Paunawa

Sa lahat ng dayuhan sa CNMI

Ang lahat ng dayuhan sa CNMI ay inaabisuhan na ang Federal Labor Ombudsman's Office ay magsasagawa ng sesyon kung saan sasagutin ang inyong mga katanungan tungkol sa PL 110-229 at pagtatrabaho sa ilalim ng batas Federal sa CNMI. Kung mayroon kang mga katanungan tungkol sa bagong ipinatutupad na batas Federal, mangyari lamang na pumunta upang ang iyong katanungan ay masagot ni Federal Labor Ombudsman Pam Brown sa Huwebes, March 04, 2010, 6:00 ng hapon, sa American Memorial Park Amphitheater, Garapan, Saipan, MP 96950.

公告

致：北马里亚纳群岛联邦(CNMI)境内的全体外籍人士

特此通知CNMI境内的全体外籍人士,联邦劳工监察官办公室将会就关于公法110-229和联邦法律下的CNMI劳工雇佣制度开展一次答问会活动。如果您对上述新实施的联邦法律有任何疑问，请在2010年3月4日星期四傍晚6点到塞班岛加拉班美国公园的圆形露天剧场来，联邦劳工监察官潘布朗女士(Pam Brown)将会现场解答您的问题。

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103.57 percent increase in February vehicle sales

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

After an 89 percent sales increase in January, the Commonwealth Auto Dealers Association posted another whopping 103.57 percent jump in vehicle sales in February.

CADA released its latest monthly sales data yesterday, showing 57 new cars, vans, trucks and sport utility vehicles sold in February 2010 compared to only 28 last year during the same period.

The 57 units sold in February bring to 125 the total vehicles sold in the first two months of 2010, marking a 95 percent increase over the same period last year.

Microl Corp. sold 24 Toyotas in February, a 60 percent jump from last year's 15 units, despite Toyota's massive recalls worldwide and related issues in recent weeks and months.

Joeten Motors sold 23 units of Nissan, Ford, Honda and Kia, a 155.56 percent increase from the same month last year.

Triple "J" Motors saw a 150 percent sales increase, from four in February 2009 to 10 last month.

CADA reported selling 25 cars, 20 SUVs, 11 trucks, and one van in February.

Toyota Yaris was not only the top car of choice, but also the top seller among all makes and models with eight units sold in February.

Among the cars sold last month were four units of Mazda3; two units each of Kia Forte, Kia Soul, Nissan Altima, Toyota Camry and Toyota Corolla; and one unit each of Honda Accord, Honda Fit, and Hyundai Genesis Sd.

Toyota RAV4 again topped the SUV sales chart with four units sold in February. This was followed by three units each of Hyundai Tucson and Nissan Rogue; two units each of Toyota 4 Runner, and Toyota FJ Cruiser; and one unit each of Ford Escape, Kia Sportage, Mazda CX7, Nissan Murano, Nissan Pathfinder, and Toyota Highlander.

Among trucks, five Ford Rangers were sold last month, followed by three Toyota Tacomas, two Nissan Frontiers, and one Nissan Titan.

Only Mazda5 was sold among the makes and models of vans in February.

REVISED

From Page 1

projection will affect budget allotments for the third and fourth quarters, from some $37.5 million to only $34.25 million.

"If we want to balance the budget, then that's the figure we have to work on. The budget authority is now $137 million, from $150 million. That's $13 million less than what was originally projected," Basa said in a phone interview.

Inos held the closed-door meeting with the leadership of the House and Senate, right after signing a proclamation declaring March 2010 CNMI Women's Month and March 8 CNMI Women's Day yesterday.

On Monday, Inos said the budget will be reduced by $10 million to $15 million, or from $150 million to $135 million.

The final figure is now $137.350 million, said Cabrera.

"Some of my colleagues talked about extreme measures when they talked about austerity Fridays and unpaid holidays. But the acting governor said when you say extreme measures, you're talking about layoffs and furloughs, which we're not doing yet," Basa said.

Some members of the House Ways and Means Committee previously pushed for the removal of the "unpaid holidays" provision in an austerity bill offered by Basa.

"Now we have no choice. We need to stick to the original bill, which will have austerity Fridays and unpaid holidays. We cannot continue to delay passing a bill. Every holiday and every payday Friday passing, that's already a loss," Basa said.

His committee will meet again today to work on the austerity bill.

The House is expected to hold a session on Friday to pass the bill, Basa added.

Among those in attendance at the closed-door meeting with Inos were Basa, Manglona, Cabrera, House Vice Speaker Felicidad Ogumoro, House Floor Leader George N. Camacho (Ind-Saipan), Rep. Edmund Villagomez (Cov-Saipan), Rep. Sylvester Iguel (Cov-Saipan), House Minority Leader Diego T. Benavente (R-Saipan), Senate Fiscal Affairs Committee chairman Sen. Jovita Taimanao (Ind-Rota), Senate Vice President Jude U. Hofschneider (R-Tinian), and Sen. Juan M. Ayuyu (Ind-Rota).

This is the first time that the Fitial administration has disclosed the need to revise the budget authority covering the two remaining quarters of FY 2010 due to much lower revenue than previously projected.

The Fitial administration's budget submission last year for FY 2010 was $150 million, but the 16th Legislature was deadlocked on the budget bill and failed to pass a budget on time.

The government has been operating under continuing resolution since then.

The Fitial administration has until April 1 to submit a proposed budget for FY 2011, which will also reflect the 2010 level, Inos said.

FRANCISCO

From Page 1

his son, Frank C. Ada Jr.

Ada served as lieutenant governor of the CNMI's first governor, Carlos S. Camacho, from 1978 to 1981.

"We're deeply saddened. He's our father. We're going to miss him so much," his son told *Saipan Tribune* in a phone interview.

Because of Ada's immense contributions to the islands, the Saipan airport was officially renamed in honor of him during a dedication ceremony in 2005.

It has since been called the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, pursuant to Saipan Local Law 13-10, signed by then Gov. Juan N. Babauta on Oct. 14, 2002.

Acting Gov. Eloy S. Inos immediately ordered yesterday all U.S. and CNMI flags on the islands to be flown at half-staff in honor of Ada's contributions to the islands.

"Governor [Benigno R.] Fitial and I extend our condolences to Mrs. Ines Seman Ada, the children, and the entire family of former Lt. Governor Francisco C. Ada," Inos said in a statement.

Francisco C. Ada was born on Sept. 26, 1934.

'A great loss to the Commonwealth'

Government officials separately said that Ada's passing is a great loss to the Commonwealth.

Sen. Pete P. Reyes (R-Saipan) said "the people of the CNMI have lost a very prominent public servant."

"As district administrator, he was just like the governor of the islands during the Trust Territory days," Reyes said, adding that he's "saddened to hear" of Ada's passing.

Acting Public Lands Secretary Oscar M. Babauta said "the Commonwealth lost another great leader."

"He made history as the district administrator and first lieutenant governor. He spearheaded the formation of a democratic government similar to the United States," said Babauta, whose nomination was the subject of a public hearing in the Senate chamber when news of Ada's passing circulated on Capital Hill yesterday.

Laura Manglona of Rota extended her condolences to the Ada family, adding that Ada had been a respected leader in the community.

Half-staff

Inos, in a statement, said Ada was instrumental in the transition of the Trust Territory government to the CNMI's first constitutional government, as well as in the development of a public and private partnership to construct the terminal and other facilities at the airport.

"The former lieutenant governor served as the guiding hand that pioneered the development and completion of the Saipan International Airport, which was renamed the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport. Lt. Governor Ada's passing is a deep loss for our Commonwealth. In honor of his immense contributions to our islands, I have ordered all U.S. and CNMI flags in the Commonwealth to be flown at half mast. He will be missed," Inos said.

Airport project

As district administrator, Ada focused on air travel as a fundamental tool to usher in a new era of economic development for the islands.

Ada was instrumental in developing the Saipan International Airport by taking advantage of grants made available by the National Airport Airways Development Act and heeding the advice of a nationally ranked airport consultant, Leigh Fisher, for modern terminal facilities.

He also had the foresight to establish the Mariana Islands Airport Authority, a self-sustaining agency that later became the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

During the 2005 dedication ceremony for the Saipan airport named after him, Ada said he was appreciative of responsible officials' recognition of his contributions.

"But the name was secondary to what the effort stands for, which is working together with the federal government [to achieve our goals]," he told the media at the time.

'A father to us all'

All of Ada's seven children have become successful individuals in the CNMI and abroad.

His children include former Commonwealth Development Authority director MaryLou Ada, former Northern Marianas College Board of Regents member Eloise Furey, attorney Lillian Tenorio, NMI Retirement Fund internal auditor Esther Ada, Office of Personnel Management's chief of classification and compensation Frank C. Ada Jr., Dr. Norma Ada, and Luciana Schubert, who flew to Saipan right away when their father was reported to be in serious condition.

Ada had another son, Joseph, but he passed away at a young age.

Frank C. Ada Jr., now the only son in the family, said his father had been dealing with a lot of health issues in the past few years.

He said his father was admitted to CHC on Sunday morning.

"He'd been there since then. All my sisters, even Lucy, who is the only one who lives on the mainland, were there in his last moment with us. We wanted more time with him. Our father is an individual who loves life, his family. We are going to miss him," he said, adding that the Ada family's weekly picnic at a beach in Oleai will never be the same.

He said the Ada family is thankful to the community for their support and kind words about his father.

"My father loved the Commonwealth. He made a lot of sacrifices for the people. We know of the contributions he made. Although he's gone now, we will continue his legacy of public service and of reminding the community of the importance of education," said Frank Ada Jr., who has been with OPM for several years.

Daily Rosary

The funeral for Ada is "tentatively" set for next Wednesday, March 10.

Ada's son said a nightly rosary will be held at the Kristo Rai Church in Garapan at 7pm, starting last night.

A daily 6am Mass will also be held for nine days at the Kristo Rai Church.

Funeral mass is expected to be at the Mount Carmel Cathedral in Chalan Kanoa.

$75M

From Page 1

ceivables, most of which are long overdue bad debts.

Babauta, a former House speaker, disclosed all this during yesterday's public hearing on his nomination as DPL secretary.

At least 15 lawmakers, government officials and private citizens testified before the Senate Committee on Executive Appointments and Governmental Investigation—all in support of Babauta's nomination.

They asked the EAGI Committee chaired by Sen. Francisco Q. Cruz (R-Tinian) to recommend Babauta's confirmation to the whole Senate.

"We need someone who is not only capable, but who can get things done," said House Minority Leader Rep. Diego T. Benavente (R-Saipan).

Benavente, a former lieutenant governor, worked with Babauta in the 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th and 16th Legislatures. Babauta decided not to seek re-election in the 17th Legislature, and Gov. Benigno R. Fitial nominated him as DPL secretary.

Babauta, in an interview after the public hearing, said he is "humbled by the overwhelming support" shown by those who testified and attended the public hearing.

"I am well aware that it is going to be a major challenge to comprehend the fundamental policies of the most difficult department to run in the NMI. However, I am prepared to take such challenge…and move on," Babauta told senators.

Former DPL Secretary John S. DelRosario also asked the EAGI Committee for a "speedy confirmation" of his successor.

DPL project manager Franz Reksid also testified on behalf of DPL employees, seeking a favorable action on Babauta's nomination.

"DPL staff will not show up if they don't support you. That shows an overwhelming support," said Sen. Jovita Taimanao (Ind-Rota), a member of the Senate EAGI Committee.

Besides Benavente, DelRosario and Reksid, others who testified in favor of Babauta's nomination as DPL secretary were Rep. Stanley Torres (Ind-Saipan), Rep. Joseph M. Palacios (R-Saipan), Rep. Tony Sablan (R-Saipan), Indigenous Affairs Office's Ignacio Demapan, Marianas Public Lands Trust trustee Pedro R. Deleon Guerrero, Commonwealth Ports Authority board vice chair Thomas "Kiyu" Villagomez, NMI Retirement Fund Board of Trustees legal counsel Viola Alepuyo, former House Floor Leader Joseph N. Camacho, Tinian Casino Gaming Commission's Peter Cruz, Felipe Q. Atalig, Juan S. Aguon, and Laura I. Manglona of Rota.

Palacios asked Babauta to look into the public lands in Lower Base, particularly the former garment factory compound, and see if they could be redeveloped.

The EAGI Committee asked Babauta to look into the pending homestead applications, among other things.

The committee also held a public hearing on Martin Sablan's nomination as secretary of the Department of Public Works.

Just like Babauta, Sablan also received much support for his nomination.

State of DPL

In his 10-page prepared remarks before the Senate EAGI Committee, Babauta said at present, the total estimated cost of land settlements based on pending land acquisitions such as right-of-ways, ponding basin and wetlands is $75 million, "to retire all land claims."

This amount involved 497 acquisitions of private properties.

"Although we are requesting $75 million, please bear in mind that DPL anticipates to continue to receive and process acquisition of additional private properties for public purpose," said Babauta.

He also said that DPL "is experiencing a decline in revenue of 15 percent due to investors closing businesses and canceling their leases."

"If this honorable body decided to float a bond in the future, kindly think about including the cost of retiring pending land claims," he said.

Babauta said DPL is currently working on a request for proposal for collection services "to help DPL in its efforts to collect approximately $13 million in receivables, most of which are long overdue bad debts."

In Fiscal Year 2008, DPL projected a revenue collection of $3.232 million, but collected only $3.188 million.

In FY 2009, the projected revenue collection was $3.082 million, but ended up collecting only $2.882 million.

For the first quarter of FY 2010, DPL's actual collection was $587,489.80. The projected collection for the whole fiscal year is $3.011 million.

Babauta said there are more than 3,400 homestead applications pending and waiting for their homestead lots to build an affordable home.

DPH eyes increase in medical referral allowance

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The Department of Public Health wants to increase the daily subsistence allowance for medical referral services and limit the number of a patient's escorts when traveling to off-island medical facilities.

From $20 per day in subsistence allowance, Public Health Secretary Kevin Villagomez is recommending an increase that will not exceed $30 per day, depending on the destination.

DPH also recommended the prohibition of a family escort for a patient or intended escort who earned $70,000 or more in the last 12 months.

The proposed amendments are now published in the Commonwealth Register.

Under the proposed changes, only minors will require an automatic escort and adult escort requirements would be based on the referring physician's recommendation and depending on the patient's condition. An escort could also be required if the patient does not speak English. Escorts will also have certain responsibilities other than physical assistance and companionship.

Villagomez also recommended doubling the lifetime limit of a medically certified catastrophic patient due to the extent of medical treatment required.

The proposed regulation also seeks to add other medical facilities referred by an approved provider. The appointment of private physicians to the Medical Referral Committee was also recommended.

Villagomez approved these recommendations on Dec. 8, 2009, and is now seeking comments from the public.

These and other amendments to the existing regulations were crafted due to the impracticality of some provisions in the statute and in consideration of the present economic situation, Villagomez said.

May CNMI patients are referred to medical facilities in Guam, Hawaii, Manila, and Japan due to inadequate services and equipment at the Commonwealth Health Center.

CHC spent $16.3 million on medical referral services in four years ending in FY 2009.

Smith, Schultz get Cub Scouts' highest awards

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Smith

Schultz

Two boys were bestowed the highest honor conferred on a Cub Scout during celebrations last week for the 100th anniversary of the Boy Scouts of America and the observance of NMI Boy Scout Week on Feb. 8-14.

Cub Scout Pack 913 awarded the Arrow of Light to Carter Smith and Kenyon Schultz, both fifth grade students on island.

The Arrow of Light is the highest honor that can be bestowed on a Cub Scout, much as the Eagle Award is to the Boy Scouts. Members must meet numerous goals to attain the Arrow of Light and comply with requirements that are both physically and mentally challenging, requiring a lot of time and dedication from the boys and their families.

Carter Smith is the son of Matt and Christina Smith. The boy has been an active member of Pack 913 since he was 8 years old.

Over the past three years, Smith earned the Bobcat, Wolf, Bear and Webelos ranks, the Religious Knot patch, 2 gold arrow points, 4 silver arrow points and 19 belt loops.

Saipan Tribune learned that Smith was the 2008 and 2009 Grand Champion in the Father and Son Cake Bake.

Meantime, Kenyon Schultz is the son of Rob and Brenda Schultz and has been an active Cub Scout member for two years now.

During those years, he earned the Bobcat and Webelos ranks, 10 belt loops, and the World Conservation Award. Being the eldest Cub Scout in the Pack, he set a great example for the younger boys.

Upon receiving their Arrow of Light and turning 11, the two boys now advance to the 11-year-old scout program of Troop 913.

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TO: FRANCES ALDAN VALDEZ and ELISEO ASUNCION VALDEZ:

You are in default in your promissory note dated July 8, 2005, secured by a real estate mortgage of the same date, executed and delivered by you to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation.

a) Description of the real property covered by the mortgage:

Lot No. 019 J 84, situated in Dandan, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 925 square meters, more or less, as shown on the Division of Lands and Surveys Official Cadastral Plat No. 019 J 15, dated November 12, 2003, Commonwealth Recorder's File No. 03-2501, the description therein being incorporated herein by reference.

b)	Date and amount of promissory note and mortgage:	July 8, 2005; $40, 000.00
c)	Amount due for principal:	$0
d)	Amount due for interest	$3,556.22 as of September 1, 2007
e)	Daily accruing interest	$6.67

If the principal, interest, and late charges $3,556.55 as of September 1, 2007, plus accruing interest, together with reasonable attorney's fees, are not paid within thirty (30) days from the date of service of this notice upon you, court proceeding will be commenced against you to foreclose upon the said mortgage because of the default.

Unless you, within thirty (30) days after receipt of this letter dispute the validity of the claim, or any portion thereof, we will assume that it is valid. If you notify us in writing within the thirty (30) day period that the claim, or any portion thereof, is disputed, we will obtain information on the debt and mail you a copy thereof. Upon your written request within this thirty (30) – day period, we will provide you with the name and address of the original creditor, if different from the creditor indicated above.

This letter is an attempt to collect a debt. Any information obtained will be used for that purpose.

Ti un komple I kontratan dibimu (promissory note) ni un fitma gi Julio 8 2005, ni afabobot I Northern Marianas Housing Corporation ma asegurao i tano yan guma ni un empeña gi mismo dia, un fitma yan un entrega i empeña (Mortgage) guato gi Northern Marianas Housing Corporation.

a) I deskripsion tano ni ma empepeña (mortgaged):

Propiedat Tano Numero 019 J 84, gaige giya Dandan, Saipan, San Kattan Islas Marianas, a konsisiste area pot 925 kuadrao metros, mas pat menus, aanok gi Division of Lands & Surveys Oficiát Mapan Tano Numero 019 J 15, ma fecha Nobiembre 12, 2003, Commonwealth Recorder's File No. 03-2501, I deskripsion guihe ma nadaña guini ni referensia.

b)	I kantida yan I fechan este na dibi yan empepeña:	Julio 8, 2005; $40,000.00
c)	Kantida un dibi para prinsipát:	$0
d)	Kantida un dibi para interes:	$3,556.22 asta ki Septembre 1, 2007
e)	Interes kada dia:	$6.67

Yangin ti un apasi I kantida na principát, interes, yan apas pot atrasao (late charges) $3,556.22 asta ki Septembre 1, 2007 yan I reasonable na apas abugado gi halom trenta (30) dias despues di fecha ni un resibe este na notisia, un ma konsidera komu ti unkomple I kontratamu (default), ya siempre un-matutuhun kontra hago I kausan kotti ni para uma kondena ya uma bendi I propiadat tano'mu ni empepena guato gi Northern Marianas Housing Corporation.

Solo yangeen halom trenta (30) dias dipues de un recibe este na kata ya un kontra minagahet-ña pot I apudera sino komo I pattida, siempre bai in hongi an asientadu I apulera. Pago yangeen un kattayi ham gi halom este i trenta (30) dias siklo man infofotma hao pot I apudera sino komo i pattida para un kontra, pues bai in henta infotmasion pot I dibi-mu despues un ma kattayi I kopia pot este na de'uda. Anai in recibe i katta-mu gi halom trenta (30) dias siklo, bai ni nai'i hao I na'an yan addres I akredot komo ti parehu na akredot ma indika guini hulu.

Este na katta para u ma na'késiña ma rikohi I dibi-mu. Maseha hafa na infotmasion ni in recibe pot este na apudera – siña bai in usa para bai in ke-chagi mu rikohi para este I dibi-mu.

/s/ MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ.
Attorney for the Northern Marianas Corporation

SHIPPING SCHEDULE

MARIANA EXPRESS LINES PTE. LTD.

Outbound from Asia	Voyage No.	ETD Jakarta	ETD Bangkok	ETD P. Kelang	ETD Melbourne	ETD Singapore	ETD Hochiminh	ETD Busan	ETD Kobe	ETD Shanghai	ETD Auckland	ETD Manila	ETD Hongkong	ETD Kaoshiung	ETD Naha
MELL SERAPONG	005E	2/20 Sat	2/18 Thu	2/18 Thu	2/16 Tue	2/13 Sat	2/26 Fri	2/22 Mon	2/21 Sun	2/14 Sun	2/14 Sun	2/22 Mon	2/26 Fri	2/28 Sun	3/2 Tue
MELL SENTOSA	034E	2/27 Sat	2/25 Thu	2/25 Thu	2/23 Tue	2/20 Sat	3/5 Fri	3/1 Mon	2/28 Sun	2/21 Sun	2/21 Sun	3/1 Mon	3/5 Fri	3/7 Sun	3/9 Tue
MELL SEMBAWANG	027E	3/6 Sat	3/4 Thu	3/4 Thu	3/2 Tue	2/27 Sat	3/12 Fri	3/8 Mon	3/7 Sun	2/28 Sun	2/28 Sun	3/8 Mon	3/12 Fri	3/14 Sun	3/16 Tue
MELL SERAPONG	006E	3/13 Sat	3/11 Thu	3/11 Thu	3/9 Tue	3/6 Sat	3/19 Fri	3/15 Mon	3/14 Sun	3/7 Sun	3/7 Sun	3/15 Mon	3/19 Fri	3/21 Sun	3/23 Tue
MELL SENTOSA	035E	3/20 Sat	3/18 Thu	3/18 Thu	3/16 Tue	3/13 Sat	3/26 Fri	3/22 Mon	3/21 Sun	3/14 Sun	3/14 Sun	3/22 Mon	3/26 Fri	3/28 Sun	3/30 Tue
MELL SEMBAWANG	028E	3/27 Sat	3/25 Thu	3/25 Thu	3/23 Tue	3/20 Sat	4/2 Fri	3/29 Mon	3/28 Sun	3/21 Sun	3/21 Sun	3/29 Mon	4/2 Fri	4/4 Sun	4/6 Tue

Inbound from Asia	Voyage No.	ETA Guam	ETD Guam	ETA Saipan	ETA Yap	ETA Koror	ETA Davao	ETA GenSan	ETA Cebu	ETA Hongkong	ETA Kaoshiung	ETA Busan	ETA Yokohama	ETA Manila	ETA Singapore
MELL SERAPONG	005E	3/6 Sat	3/7 Sun	3/7 Sun	3/9 Tue	3/10 Wed	3/12 Fri	3/14 Sun	SKIP	3/19 Fri	3/20 Sat	3/25 Thu	4/13 Tue	3/28 Sun	3/24 Wed
MELL SENTOSA	034E	3/13 Sat	3/14 Sun	3/14 Sun	SKIP	3/17 Wed	3/19 Fri	3/21 Sun	SKIP	3/26 Fri	3/27 Sat	4/1 Thu	4/20 Tue	4/4 Sun	3/31 Wed
MELL SEMBAWANG	027E	3/20 Sat	3/21 Sun	3/21 Sun	3/23 Tue	3/24 Wed	3/26 Fri	3/28 Sun	SKIP	4/2 Fri	4/3 Sat	4/8 Thu	4/27 Tue	4/11 Sun	4/7 Wed
MELL SERAPONG	006E	3/27 Sat	3/28 Sun	3/28 Sun	SKIP	3/31 Wed	4/2 Fri	4/4 Sun	SKIP	4/9 Fri	4/10 Sat	4/15 Thu	5/4 Tue	4/18 Sun	4/14 Wed
MELL SENTOSA	035E	4/3 Sat	4/4 Sun	4/4 Sun	4/6 Tue	4/7 Wed	4/9 Fri	4/11 Sun	SKIP	4/16 Fri	4/17 Sat	4/22 Thu	5/11 Tue	4/25 Sun	4/21 Wed
MELL SEMBAWANG	028E	4/10 Sat	4/11 Sun	4/11 Sun	SKIP	4/14 Wed	4/16 Fri	4/18 Sun	SKIP	4/23 Fri	4/24 Sat	4/29 Thu	5/18 Tue	5/2 Sun	4/28 Wed

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CTSI Building, Lower Base,
P.O. Box 501937,
Saipan MP 96950
Website: www.ctsi-logistics.com

Edgar T. Garcia
Inbound
Direct line (670) 236-2422

Jaime P. Salazar
Outbound
Direct line (670) 236-2410

Leslie F. Rodriguez
Sales and Marketing
Direct line (670) 236-2402

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55 Pacific bird species are added to federal list of 'migratory birds'

NORTHERN MARIANAS COLLEGE
Board of Regents

Special Board Meeting

Board of Regents Conference Room,
NMC Saipan Campus
Thursday, March 4, 2010
3:30pm

AGENDA

I. Preliminary Matters
A. Roll Call

II. New Business
A. FY2011 Consolidated Budget

III. Executive Session
(At any time during the scheduled meeting the Board of Regents may be required to enter into executive session to discuss matters deemed privileged and confidential)

IV. Adjournment

/s/ Janet Han King — March 2, 2010
Chairperson, Board of Regents — Date

Northern Mariana Islands RETIREMENT FUND

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC, Division 9, §9910, Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, through the NMI Retirement Fund Board of Trustees/Workers' Compensation Commission/Group Health & Life Insurance Trust Fund, are hereby giving notice that the Board of Trustees will hold its ***reconvened Annual Board and Money Manager's meeting*** of **February 22, 2010** on **Friday, March 5, 2010 at 9:00 a.m.** at the Multi Purpose Center, Susupe, Saipan. The meeting will recommence with Item II. PUBLIC COMMENTS and follow through the Agenda accordingly.

AGENDA

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS
A. Call to Order
B. Roll Call
C. Adoption of Agenda
D. Adoption of Minutes of Meetings:
1. October 15, 2009
2. January 28, 2010 (Reconvened February 2, 2010)
II. PUBLIC COMMENTS
III. 2010 ANNUAL MONEY MANAGER'S MEETING
IV. REPORTS
A. Report of the Chairman
1. ROC No. 10-005
B. Report of the Administrator / Correspondence
1. ROA No. 10-005
a) Status Updates
C. Report of the Comptroller
1. Drawdown Requests
D. Reports of the Committees
1. Finance & Investment Committee
2. Operations & Personnel Committee
3. Policies, Programs & Legislative Review Committee
4. GH&L and WCC Committee
E. Communications
1. Internal Auditor Reports
F. Other Matters
V. LEGAL MATTERS
A. Reports of the Legal Counsels
1. Report of the Board Counsel
a) Lawsuit
i) Report of the Post Judgment Negotiation Panel
b) Other Legal Matters
2. Report of the In-House Counsel
a) Update on Administrative Appeals
3. Report of the Hearing Officer
VI. OLD BUSINESS
A. BR 08-001 Matters
1. Disability Applicants
B. MHL – Bank Pacific
C. Life Insurance Update
D. Health Insurance Update
E. NMIRF 07-001
VII. NEW BUSINESS
A. FY2011 Budget Call
VIII. ELECTION OF OFFICERS
IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION
X. MISCELLANEOUS
A. Announcements
B. Next Meeting
C. Adjournment

/s/ **SIXTO K. IGISOMAR**
CHAIRMAN, BOARD OF TRUSTEES

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced yesterday the first revisions to the list of birds species protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act since 1985, including the addition of 24 species that occur only in Hawaii and 28 species from American Samoa, the Mariana Islands, or Baker and Howland Islands.

"This update to the list of federally protected birds reflects the best available science on bird taxonomy and distribution and will help us improve management of our nation's migratory birds," said acting director Rowan Gould. "The new list benefits researches, hunters, conservationists, state agencies, tribal governments, and bird-watchers by extending federal protection to all migratory bird species native to the United State while highlighting advances and changes in bird taxonomy that have accumulated since the list was last published."

The changes include 186 new additions and 11 subtractions, bringing the total number of species protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act to 1,007. Species appearing on this list are protected from take (killing, capturing, or attempts to kill or capture of adults, eggs, or nests) and from commercial use, unless authorized under migratory bird permits or hunting regulations. Many of the Hawaiian species and five Mariana Island species are already protected under the Endangered Species Act.

Sixty-five species were added to the list based on documented sighting within the United States, Puerto Rico, or the U.S. Virgin Islands since 1985, including three new species for Hawaii. Twenty-four species from the Fringilladae family were added to the list, including many of the Hawaiian forest bird species and three species from the Northwest Hawaiian Islands. In addition, 28 species occurring naturally in American Samoa, Baker and Howland Islands, Guam, or the Northern Mariana Islands were also added.

The revisions also remove species no longer known to occur within the United States and change some names to conform to accepted usages. The change also reflect taxonomic revisions to the bird taxa of North America published by the American Ornithologists' Union, and changes in the Migratory Bird List incorporate name changes and revisions moving some species from one taxon to another.

The Mariana Islands bird species included on the list are the black bittern (*Ixobrychus flavicollis*), little pied cormorant (*Phalacrocorax melanoleucos*), Marianas crow (*Corvus kubaryi*), Mariana fruit dove (*Ptilinopus reseicapilla*), Nordmann's greenshank (*Tringa guttifer*), white-throated ground dove (*Gallicoluma xanthonura*), gray heron (*Ardea cinerea*), collared kingfisher (*Todihamphus chloris*), Micronesian kingfisher (*Todihamphus cinnamominus*), Eurasian oystercatcher (*Haematopus ostralegus*), Guam rail (*Gallirallus owstoni*), nightingale reed warbler (*Acrocephalus luscinia*), Matsudaira's storm petrel (*Oceanodroma matsudairae)*, and Mariana swiftlet (*Aerodramus bartschi*).

American Samoa species included on the list are the spotless crake, Pacific black duck, crimson-crowned fruit dove, many-colored fruit dove, friendly ground dove, Pacific imperial pigeon, collared kingfisher, Gould's petrel, Tahiti petrel, buff-banded rail, Polynesian storm petrel, white-bellied storm petrel, purple swamp hen, and white-rumped swiftlet.

Baker and Howland Islands only had one entry: the Phoenix petrel (*Pterodroma leucoptera)*

The final rule can be found online at http://migratorybirds.fws.gov. ***(FWS)***

US Army Corps of Engineers®

PUBLIC NOTICE

Request for information about the former Marpi Point Field (located in the Banaderu area on the northern tip of the Island of Saipan, CNMI)

Recently, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers completed a Site Inspection at the former ***Marpi Point Field. This site was used by the United States military as an airfield.***

The former ***Marpi Point Field*** is one of many former military installations throughout the United States that will be reviewed under the Department of Defense's Munitions Response Site Prioritization Protocol. This protocol is used to assess sites that may have unexploded ordnance, discarded military munitions or munitions constituents, and to assign priorities for any additional investigation or munitions removal that may be required.

The evaluation criteria, including types of munitions that may be present, ease of access to the site and number of people living near the site, are available for public review in the Site Inspection Report located at:

Joeten-Kiyu Public Library
PO Box 501092
Saipan, MP 96950

If you have additional information about past activities related to the former ***Marpi Point Field***, please contact:

Helene Takemoto
Project Manager
USACE, Honolulu District
Attn: CEPOH-PP-E
Building 230
Fort Shafter, HI 96858-5440
e-mail: FUDS-POH@usace.army.mil

Telephone: (808) 438-6931

Agri Summit to be aired on Tinian, Rota

The Northern Marianas College will be broadcasting live the Agriculture Summit to residents of Tinian and Rota at the respective NMC instructional sites from 8:30am to 4:30pm today, March 3.

In collaboration with Department of Lands and Natural Resources and the Saipan and the Northern Islands Municipal Council, the Northern Marianas College Cooperative Research, Education, and Extension Service is hosting its second agriculture summit aimed at helping farmers and ranchers find ways to conserve and preserve our environment and provide information about the current agriculture market climate and opportunities for growth.

The three organizations that are better known as the CNMI Farm Support Group created a partnership in response to the growing need for a collective action to sustain the CNMI agriculture industry and study ways to help revive areas of weakness.

The event will cover lectures on the following farm-related issues: pest management, agriculture workforce upon federalization of immigration, product exports, government regulations, alternative farming, military assistance in the industry's developmental phase and the creation of a farming cooperative group.

Organizers of the event will ask participants to actively engage in panel discussions and allow time for questions and answers during the event.

CNMI leaders and experts in the industry will also participate as panelists to cover areas of farm equipment, water supply and water rates, local business tax credit opportunities and post-harvest strategies. There will also be highlights on issues of co-op program on Rota and Tinian's Cattleman's Association concerns.

"We would like to encourage our participants to take advantage of this event and the information that will be presented to them," said NMC interim president Lorraine Cabrera. "We would like to thank the CNMI Farmer Support Group for organizing this great summit for our local farmers and ranchers." ***(NMC)***

PAWS puppies up for adoption

Over the last two weeks, three litters of abandoned puppies have been rescued from around the island. PAWS and Paradise Island Animal Hospital are working together to find responsible and loving homes for these animals. PAWS is also looking for foster families to care for the smaller puppies until they can be adopted by permanent homes.

Fostering PAWS animals means that a family or individual agrees to care for the puppies by ensuring the puppies: (1) see Dr. Tudor for follow-up medical examinations; (2) are fed every day; (3) have fresh water; and (4) have a safe and dry place to sleep and play. Food and necessary medical care are paid for by PAWS. Fostering is a great opportunity for families that would like a pet, but may not be able to care for animal long-term.

Currently, PAWS is seeking foster or permanent homes for the following puppies:

■ Four (4) black and tan puppies that are about 5-6 weeks old. The puppies have been dewormed and treated for skin disease.

■ Seven (7) black and tan puppies that are about 7-8 weeks old. These puppies have been dewormed and treated for skin disease.

If you are interested in adopting or fostering a PAWS pup, contact PAWS at 285-PAWS or contact Paradise Island Animal Hospital at 234-9669. ***(PAWS)***

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT
OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

PACIFIC ASSET MANAGEMENT CORP.,	)	CIVIL ACTION NO. 06-0179
Plaintiff,	)	
vs.	)	**NOTICE OF SALE**
ANA MARIA B. HOFSCHNIEDER, THE ESTATE OF HENRY LAMBERT UNTALAN HOFSCHNEIDER, and DOES I-X,	)	
Defendants.	)	

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on February 17th, 2010, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth herein below, all of the right, title, and interests of Defendants in and to the property described as:

Lot No. 001 T 33, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 001 T 00, the original of which was registered 23 JUL 70 as Document No. 100-A at Land Registry, Saipan.

1. **Date, Time, and Place of Sale:** The sale will be held on Friday, March 26th, 2010, at the Law Offices of Timothy H. Bellas, Cactus St., Botones Ave., Garapan Beach Road, at the hour of 10:00 a.m. The sale will be open to the general public.

2. **Inspection of Property:** The property described above is located on Tinian, Northern Mariana Islands. It is the obligation of the bidder to inspect the property. Failure to inspect the property or any portion thereof will not constitute ground for any claim, adjustment or rescission by any buyer.

3. **Warranties and Covenants:** All property listed for sale in this Notice will be sold in its current condition, and at its current location. The sale will be held without any warranties or covenants whatsoever, whether express or implied, including but not limited to warranties of title, merchantability, and/or fitness for any purpose whatsoever, all of which warranties and covenants are hereby expressly disclaimed. Neither the undersigned nor the Plaintiff may give any warranty or covenant, express or implied, with respect to the property listed for sale in this Notice. Neither the undersigned nor the Plaintiff shall be liable for the quality of the property listed for sale in this Notice, or for any defect in the description thereof. Buyers shall not be entitled to rescission, damages, or any other remedy on account thereof.

4. **Conduct of Sale:**

a. ***Reserve.*** The auction sale may be held with reserve. The reserve price on any property offered for sale may or may not be disclosed to bidders, in the sole discretion of the undersigned.

b. ***Rights and Duties of Auctioneer.*** Consistent with the laws, customs, and usages of the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands governing auction sales, the undersigned shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale: (1) to withdraw the property listed for sale in this Notice before sale before a bid for such property is accepted; (2) to adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is struck off, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and (3) to reject, on behalf of the seller, any and/or all bids, for any reason.

c. ***Bids.*** Bids may be submitted in advance for any or all of the property listed in this Notice. The highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the item. Advance bids may be submitted only in writing, signed by the bidder, and delivered or mailed to the Law Offices of Timothy H. Bellas, Cactus Street, Botones Avenue, Garapan, P.O. Box 502845, Saipan, MP 96950. The bidder assumes all of risk of non-delivery, late delivery, or mis-delivery of bids. Any person, including the Plaintiff, may bid in person at the auction sale, whether or not such person has submitted an advance bid.

d. **Disputes.** The undersigned may re-submit any property listed in the Notice if a dispute arises as to any bid thereon.

5. **Enforcement of Auction Sale.**

a. ***Deposit.*** Every successful bidder shall pay to the undersigned a deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price immediately after the sale is consummated. Payment shall be in cash or by certified check. The balance must be paid to the Plaintiff, in care of Timothy H. Bellas Law Office Trust Account, within three (3) days from the date of sale, in cash or by certified check. If the balance is not so paid, Plaintiff will retain the deposit as liquidated damages, and will again offer the property for sale.

6. **Memorandum of Sale.** If requested by the undersigned, every successful bidder must sign a Memorandum of Sale, immediately after the sale of any property is struck off at auction.

7. **Court Approval Required.** Every sale is subject to approval by the Court. The auctioneer makes no warranties or promises with respect to court approval of the sale, including but not limited to the time in which such approval may be granted or denied. No delay in the granting of court approval shall be ground for any claim, adjustment, or rescissions by any successful bidder. The successful bidder will be promptly notified if and when court approval is granted or denied.

8. **Changes of Terms and Conditions.** The undersigned and the Plaintiff reserve the right to change any of the terms hereof by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale, or the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause, shall be binding on all bidders by constructive notice.

Dated this 19th day of February 2010.

/s/ By: Timothy H. Bellas
Law Offices of Timothy H. Bellas, LLC
Auctioneer
Tel. no. 323-2115

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB10-DEQ-069

SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: MARCH 19, 2010 TIME: 11:00 A.M.

"PURCHASE OF ONE (1) 150 HP OUTBOARD 4-STROKE ENGINE FOR THE DIVISION OF ENVIROMENTAL QUALITY"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THIS IS A FEDRALLY FUNDED PROJECT: AS SUCH, **LOCAL PREFERENCE IS NOT AVAILABLE**, BECAUSE ITS USE IS PROHIBITED BY FEDERAL LAW GRANTING FUNDING FOR THIS PROJECT.

/s/ FRANK M. RABAULIMAN
DIRECTOR OF DEQ

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

Procurement And Supply
CNMI Government

INVITATION TO BID

ITB NO.: ITB10-DPS-067 (A) (B) (C)
Submission/Opening Date: March 19, 2010 • Time: 10:00 a.m.

"PURCHASE OF FOUR (4) PORTABLE INSTANT RAPID MESSENGERS (2-CIF–SAIPAN, 1-CIF–TINIAN, 1-CIF–ROTA) FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY–POLICE TRAFFIC SECTION"

Copies of the specifications may be picked up at the Office of the Director, Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base Dr., Saipan, during regular working hours.

This is a Federally funded project; as such, **local preference is not available**, because its use is prohibited by Federal Law granting funding for this project.

/s/ SANTIAGO F. TUDELA
Commissioner of Public Safety

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director, P&S

Procurement And Supply
CNMI Government

INVITATION TO BID

ITB NO.: ITB10-DPS-068
Submission/Opening Date: March 19, 2010 • Time: 10:30 a.m.

"PURCHASE OF ONE (1) PORTABLE RADAR SPEED TRAILER–CIF-TINIAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY–TINIAN POLICE TRAFFIC SECTION"

Copies of the specifications may be picked up at the Office of the Director, Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base Dr., Saipan, during regular working hours.

This is a Federally funded project; as such, **local preference is not available**, because its use is prohibited by Federal Law granting funding for this project.

/s/ SANTIAGO F. TUDELA
Commissioner of Public Safety

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director, P&S

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

March 3, 1999

Panel sets hearing on power project

The House committee on Public Utilities, Transportation and Communications is set to conduct a public hearing on the new 80-megawatt power plant on Saipan to determine whether the government should back up the project that has been mired in controversy. PUTC chair Rep. David M. Apatang yesterday said the town meeting is likely to be held this month as part of the committee's review of a proposed legislation seeking full faith and credit guarantee on the $120 million plant. So far, the bill has met unfavorable response from some government agencies, including the Office of the Public Auditor and the Commonwealth Development Authority, due to its possible negative implication on the government action.

Scholars asked to take 60 credits at NMC

Off-island students who are recipients of the local scholarship and educational assistance grants are required to take at least 60 credits at the Northern Marianas College and maintain a grade point average of 2.0 prior to enrolling in a college or university abroad. The local scholarship eligibility will consider both requirements, according to the bill filed and passed at the first CNMI Youth Congress. Entitled as "The Scholarship Act", this bill is aimed at preparing freshmen college students for the higher learning environment and its academic requirements. The group of young legislators cited that a number of students going off-island are not prepared to move into the new environment and some would return home.

March 3, 2000

OIA will not intervene in power project controversy

The last wall of defense being used by the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation to back its controversial decision on the 80-megawatt Saipan power plant has come under question after the Office of Insular Affairs refused an appeal to intervene in this dispute. OIA Director Ferdinand Aranza hinted that an agreement forged between the CNMI and Washington five years ago on its operations and management does not extend to the current squabble surrounding the procurement of the much delayed project. CUC officials have repeatedly warned that political interference in the management of the government-owned utility corporation could result in the withholding of all Capital Improvement Projects in the CNMI by the Department of Interior.

Hopwood Jr. High tutors bicker

Clashes between two groups of teachers and staff of the Hopwood Junior High School may compromise the students' access to learning if arguments surrounding the alleged inefficient management of the institution's principal persist. A group of tutors and non-teaching staff signed a petition seeking the ouster of Hopwood Junior High Principal Lourdes Mendiola on grounds that she allegedly failed to address pressing discipline problems in the school. The petition letter was signed by 51 employees of the school, 70 percent of whom are teachers and 40 percent are support staff. Hopwood Junior High employs 85 staff and is home to some 1,300 students.

March 3, 2003

CPA, MPLA locked in land transfer debate

Before the House Committee on Natural Resources Friday, autonomous public agencies Commonwealth Ports Authority and Marianas Public Land Authority traded arguments defending their conflicting stance on the bill proposing the freehold transfer of Puerto Rico public lands for the CPA's port expansion projects. The MPLA, led by Board member and former justice Pete Atalig and Commissioner Henry Hofschneider, adamantly opposed the proposed fee simple transfer of the public lands, citing its would-be adverse impact on MPLA projects that directly benefit people of NMI descent.

Senate to act on pending bills

The Senate is set to act on at least 40 bills in a session scheduled for Tuesday to put a closure to the string of pending legislation that have been sitting in Senate committees for many months, Floor Leader Joaquin G. Adriano said yesterday. Adriano said the Senate had entertained some 60 House and Senate bills in what seemed like marathon committee meetings on Tinian this week. "The target is to get the bills out on the floor. Some of these bills have been in the committee for as long as ten months," said the Floor Leader. Some of the bills that are up for action deal on environmental conservation, infrastructure improvement projects and other local policies, said Adriano.

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

INVITATION FOR BIDS
COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION
CUC-IFB-10-016

GROUND MAINTENANCE SERVICES FOR CUC POWER GENERATION FACILITIES. SAIPAN

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), is soliciting sealed bids from firms capable of providing Ground Maintenance Services for CUC Power Generation facilities in Saipan.

A mandatory pre-bid and site visit meeting is scheduled for Friday, February 19, 2010 at 1O:OO AM (CHST) local time at the Power Generation Conference Room, Lower Base, Saipan, to ensure that the contractors are fully aware of the work involved and familiarize with the site conditions. All proposers are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the proposers due to lack of information or understanding of the site conditions in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid or performance of work under the contract.

The Scope-of-Work may be pick-ed up at CUC, Procurement & Supply Office at Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, 3rd Floor, Room No.4 between 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM and 12:30 PM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday, except on Government observed holidays.

One (1) original and five (5) copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"IFB-10-016 GROUND MAINTENANCE SERVICES FOR POWER GENERATION FACILITIES. SAIPAN"** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than Wednesday, March 10, 2010 at 10:OO AM (CHST) local time**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

- Contract will be awarded for a (1) One Year Term, upon issuance of Notice to Proceed.
- Selected firm must provide its company's latest BGRT/Withholding Tax information.
- Selected firm must provide copies of valid work permits for each employee to be assigned at CUC.
- Selected firm and all subcontractors must provide documents as proof that the firm is covering its employees under the Workman's Compensation program and is paying its employees pay wage rates not less than the current Federal minimum wage, prevailing through the period of the contract, as indicated in the web page http://www.dol.gov/esa/minwage/cnmi/cnmi.htm. The selected firm will also be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws.
- Quotation for said services shall be valid for 60 days from date of submittal.
- This Scope of Work shall become "Exhibit A" of the Ground Maintenance Contract.

All inquiries must be submitted no later than Monday, March 1, 2010, 10:OO AM. in writing to Manuel B. Sablan, Purchasing Officer, via email to msablan@cucgov.net and Almondo Santos, Power Generation Manager at pwrgen@cucgov.net.

Selection procedure shall be in full compliance with CUC Procurement Regulations. CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the interest of the government. All Bids shall become the property of CUC.

/s/TIMOTHY M. CONNOR	/s/ABE UTU MALAE	/s/ANTONIO S. MUNA
Legal Counsel	Assistant Executive Director for Operation	Executive Director

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

INVITATION FOR BID
CUC-IFB-10-017

CUC WATER FACILITIES UPGRADE/REPLACEMENT OF TRANSFORMERS

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting sealed bids from qualified individuals or firms to supply and deliver the following power distribution materials for CUC's Water facilities upgrade/ replacement of transformers & conductor project in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands:

TRANSFORMERS
TYPE : Transformer, Pole 3-Phase 13.8KV-120/240V TB (Three Bushing) 30 KVA
QUANTITY : (50) Fifty

CONDUCTOR
TYPE : Conductor, CU, Bare, SOL, HD, #4
QUANTITY : 5,000 Feet

Interested parties may be pick-up the bid package & the detailed specification at CUC, Procurement & Supply Office at Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, 3rd Floor, Room No.4 between 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM and 12:30 PM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday, except on Government observed holidays.

One (1) original and five (5) copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-IFB-10-017, CUC Water Facilities Upgrade/ Replacement of Transformers, Saipan." to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor Joeten Dandan, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than April, 05, 2010 at 10:00 AM, (CST) local time, at which time they will be publicly opened. Late submissions will not be considered.

Local Bidders (CNMI based business) will be required to submit a copy of a CNMI Business License upon notice of award of contract. Off-island Bidders (Non-CNMI based business) are excluded from the requirement of submitting a copy of a CNMI Business license upon notice of award of contract.

Selection procedure shall be in full compliance with CUC Procurement Regulations. CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

All inquiries should be directed to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Officer at email: msablan@cucqov.net and John Ed Onedera, CUC Power Division Engineer at email: johno@cucgov.net

/s/ TIMOTHY CONNOR	**/s/ ABE UTU MALAE**	**/s/ ANTONIO S. MUNA**
Legal Counsel	Assistant Executive Director for Operation	Executive Director

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
3rd Floor, Joeten Commercial Building
P.O. Box 501220 CK, Dandan, Saipan, MP 96950

Commonwealth I Sankattan Siha Na Islas Mariana
Ofisinan I Gubietno
Dipåttamenton I Tano' Pupbliku

NOTISIA POT PRINIPONEN ATKILON TANU PUBLIKU

Segun i lai Publiku 15-2, Seksiona 106, i Depattamention Tanu Publiku ha notitisia todus ni intension para ma-atkilan tanu publiku gi Lower Base, Saipan. Libre i publiku muna` halom hafa hinassoña nu este na planu.

i. I tanu gaige gi Lot No. 038 E 02 ya i minedoñg 6,800 metru kuatdrau, poku mas o`menus. Guaha kopian este na lugat gi Depattamention Tanu para haye malagu umina.

ii. I para u fan atkila i Success International Corporation ni ineluluye as Señor Guo Jun Miao. Guiya lokue sekretariu yan treasurarion i kompania.

iii. I mapropopone na atkilon manegosiu as Señor Miao.

iv. I lugat para bisnis man-areglan kareta yan man-mueba tumobit 24 oras diariamente. I tetminon atkilon para 25 años na tiempu ya siña lokue ma-ekstende para otru 15 años. I tutat atkilon gaige gi pot sientu gi ma-katkula ni marehistra na kompanian man-ebaluan balin tanu.

v. I kopian kontratan atkilon gaige gi Depattamention Tanu gi Joeten Building, Dandan, Bank of Saipan Commercial Building, Luta; yan primet bibienda gi Kings Commercial Bldg. giya Tinian.

vi. I Depattamenton Tanu taya renisibiña kabales na propositu pot atkilon i lugat ni gaige guine na anunsiu.

vii. I Sekcretariun Depattamenton Tanu siña ha resibe nina halum publiku pot este priniponen atkilon, fabot `sino kinentra, antes `sino Måtso ida 8, 2010 gi katkuet offinan tanu giya Saipan, Tinian yan Luta.

ARONGORONGOL REEL AKKILONUL FALÚWEER TOULAP

Sángi Tálil 106 (b) mellól alléghúl toulap 15-2, Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap ekke atotoowow ammataf igha ebwe akkilaaló eghús falúw mellól Seipél, Commonwealth Teel faluwasch Marianas. Schóókka eyoor máfiyeer rebwe isisilong aghiyegh, aweewe, reel pomwol akkilonul ammwelil falúweer toulap me bwal Alléghúl Toualp ye 15-2, e ayoora, lamal aweewe kka rebwe mweiti ngáli milikka ebwe akkatéélló.

i. Pomwol akkilonul falúweer toulap nge ekke bwáári Lot No 038 E 02, eyoor olangaras walabwughúw (6,800) square meters, elapeló ngáre eghús, elo Lower Base, Seipél. Tilighial bwuley yeel nge eyoor mereel Bwulasiyool Falúweer Toulap (Public Lands) ngáre óubwe ghuleey fischi.

ii. Schéschéél schóól akkilon nge Success International Corporation, CNMI Corporation. Samwoolul Corporation nge Guo Jun Miao.

Samwoolul Treasurer/Sekkeretoria nge Guo Jun Miao.

Schóól aweweel akkilon nge Mr. Guo Jun Miao.

iv. Schóól akkilon ebwe ayoora me mwóghutáágheli fasilidóód fengál me leliyel ffééról ghareeta. 24-hours reel towing service shop, me akkááw angaangal.

Tool aighúghúl pomwol akkilon nge ebwe reweigh me limoow ráágh (25 years) me emmwel ebwe sóbwusóbw ngáli bwal seigh me limwoow ráágh (15 yrs)

Pomwol akkilon yeel llól alongal ráágh nge ebwe mwir sángi llapal méél falúw (value of the property) me bwal meeta kka e akkayú llól bwuleey yeel.

v. Tilighial akkilon yeel nge emmwel óubwe bwughi mereel bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap, elo aruwowal pwó (2nd floor) me Joeten Dandan Commercial Building llól Tuturam, Seipél; aruwowal pwó (2nd floor) mellól Bank of Saipan Commerial Building, Luuta; me ngáre mmwal pwo (1st floor) mellól Kings Commercial Building, Tchuluyol.

vi. Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap nge esáál bweibwogh mwo pomwol akkilon ye elo Lower Base, Seipel.

vii. Samwoolul Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap nge ebwe bwughil ischil mángemáng kkaal, aingiingil mereel amweyút mmwal Mááilap 8, 2010 mellól Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap iye elo Seipél, Luuta me ngáre Tchúlúyól.

NOTICE OF PROPOSED LEASE OF PUBLIC LAND

In accordance with Section 106 (b) of Public Law 15-2, the Department of Public Lands hereby gives notice of its intent to lease certain public lands in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Any interested parties of the general public may submit comments, data, views, or arguments of alternative proposals for the lease of the public land. As further provided by Public Law 15-2, the following pertinent information is required to be published.

i. The proposed lease of public land is described as Lot No. 038 E 02, containing an area of approximately 6,800 square meters, more or less, situated in Lower Base, Saipan. A copy of the location of the parcel is available at the Department of Public Lands for inspection.

ii. The prospective lessee is Success International Corporation, a CNMI Corporation. The Director of the Corporation is Guo Jun Miao.

The President/Secretary/Treasurer of the Corporation is Guo Jun Miao.

iii. The proposed lease was negotiated by Mr. Guo Jun Miao.

iv. The lessee shall use the premises solely for the purpose of developing and managing a facility with a complete automobile repair shop, 24-hour towing service shop, and related operations.

The term of the proposed lease agreement is 25 years, with an option to extend the lease for an additional 15 years.

The proposed annual rental during the term is based on a percentage of the appraised fair market value of the property, including existing structure(s).

v. A copy of the proposed lease agreement may be obtained at the office of the Department of Public Lands, located on the 2nd floor of the Joeten Dandan Commercial Building in Dandan, Saipan; the 2nd floor of the Bank of Saipan Commercial Building, Rota; or the 1st floor of the Kings Commercial Building, Tinian.

vi. The Department of Public Lands has received no alternative proposals to lease the subject public land in Lower Base, Saipan.

vii. The Secretary of the Department of Public Lands shall accept written comments, views, arguments or alternative proposals from interested parties on or before March 8, 2010 at the Department of Public Lands offices located in Saipan, Rota or Tinian.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
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EDITORIAL

Are we less safe?

Is America less safe under the Obama administration?

Former Vice President Dick Cheney and other Republican critics think so. "We are at war," Cheney said after the failed terrorist attack on Flight 253 on Christmas Day. "And when President Obama pretends we aren't it makes us less safe."

But another high-profile Republican, former Secretary of State Colin Powell, recently fired back: "The nation is still at risk. Terrorists are out there. They're trying to get through. But to suggest that somehow we have become much less safer because of the actions of the administration, I don't think that's borne out by the facts."

Unfortunately, the government fed concerns with its response to the attempted bombing on Flight 253.

The FBI interrogated the suspect, Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab, for 50 minutes. At that point, interrogators stopped their questioning so Abdulmutallab could get medical treatment for the injuries he suffered when he allegedly tried to ignite explosive powder in his underwear and bring down the plane.

Hours later, when they got their next chance to talk to him, Justice Department authorities treated him like a routine criminal defendant. He was advised of his rights, including the right to remain silent.

Abdulmutallab stopped talking. The government lost the opportunity to learn if he knew of other coordinated attacks in the works. Fortunately, there weren't any. At least, no others were attempted.

The highest priority in this situation was to gain intelligence about imminent threats, and learn who prepared and sent Abdulmutallab and how he avoided security.

There was more: The Justice Department didn't even notify Dennis Blair, the nation's top intelligence official, about the questioning of Abdulmutallab. That was a failure of coordination by America's law enforcement agencies, a disturbing echo of the FBI-CIA rivalry exposed after the Sept. 11 attacks.

A special interrogation team of federal agents and intelligence officers was supposed to be set up to grill such high-value prisoners. It hadn't been formed yet; officials were still ironing out the details.

So Barack Obama's team has made some mistakes and needs to learn from them quickly.

There is an urgency to this debate. A few weeks ago, Blair issued a precise and scary warning: Americans should expect an attempted terrorist attack on U.S. soil in the next three to six months. "The priority is certain," he told a Senate committee. FBI Director Robert Mueller and CIA Director Leon Panetta, agreed.

The nation has been warned repeatedly since Sept. 11, 2001—most notably by members of the commission formed to investigate the attacks—that it has not adequately prepared to fend off another one.

That's not a situation created by the Obama administration. The administration hasn't made us less safe. It does, though, have the responsibility to make us safer now.

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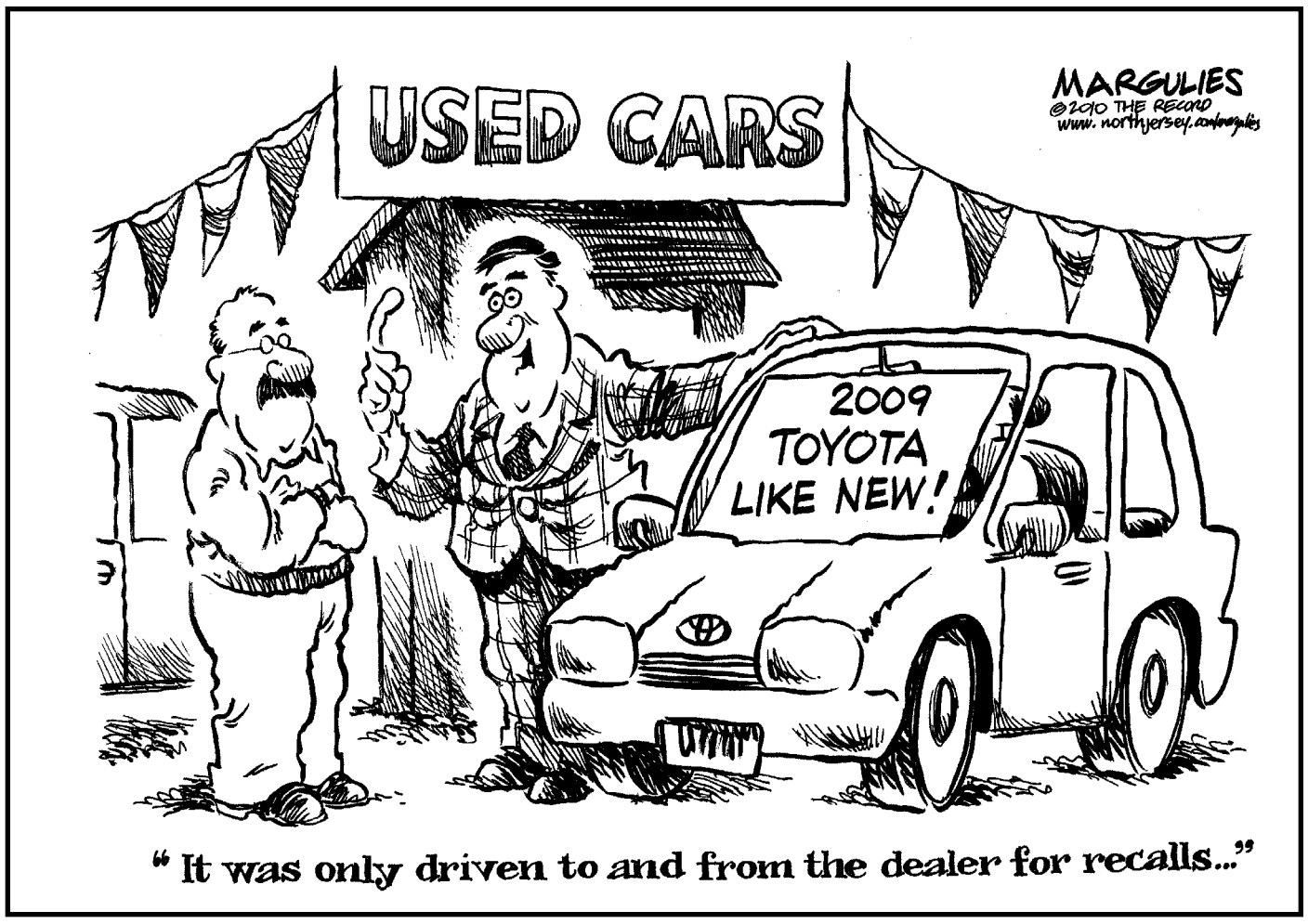


5 myths about the labor movement

By ALEC MACGILLIS
(C) 2010, THE WASHINGTON POST

The anniversary of the $787 billion economic stimulus act came and went last week with unemployment still holding stubbornly close to 10 percent. The Democrats' universal health-care legislation lies in limbo on Capitol Hill. Where in all of this are the unions—the historic guardians of the Democrats' economic agenda? Sidelined, sort of.

Labor's top legislative priority, the Employee Free Choice Act, is languishing. Craig Becker, the union lawyer nominated by President Obama to a five-year term on the National Labor Relations Board, hasn't made it to his post. This month, he failed to win enough votes to prevent a filibuster on his nomination, and the president declined to make a recess appointment.

Becker's travails drew a brief flurry of attention to the issue of labor law reform. It might be tempting to dismiss this fraught realm with the old joke about academia—that the politics are so vicious because the stakes are so low.

But this would be wrong, as is so much that is said and written across the political spectrum about organized labor.

1 Organized labor is in inexorable decline.

Not exactly. Organized labor isn't so much shrinking as shifting. The proportion of private-sector workers who are union members continues to drop, to 7.2 percent last year from 7.6 percent in 2008. But this decline was offset by the ongoing growth of public-sector unions—37.4 percent of public employees are now represented by unions. Today, there are more public employees in unions (7.9 million) than private-sector ones (7.4 million).

Even within the private sector, organized labor's decline isn't irreversible. Much of it is a result of larger economic forces such as the shrinkage of union-dominated manufacturing industries and the expansion of more transient, service and professional jobs where the workers are more difficult to organize.

But there are growing sectors in which unions are making inroads—low-wage jobs in retail and in health care or elder care, for example. And they would be signing up more workers if the regulatory climate were more favorable. As manufacturing-heavy as the economy was in the early 20th century, it was only when President Franklin Roosevelt pushed through the pro-union reforms of the New Deal that membership surged, tripling from 12 percent of the workforce in 1930 to 36 percent in 1945.

2 Unions are bad for economic growth.

Economists on the left and the right can debate this one for days. The pro-labor side has a strong argument: The period of highest union penetration, from the 1940s to the '70s, was also a period of sustained economic growth. The other side counters with examples of unions doing harm to their members and industries: The "jobs bank" that the United Auto Workers maintained for years, paying laid-off workers to do nothing, is a favorite. And labor's foes like to note that states in the South and the West with "right to work" laws restricting unions have successfully lured companies from the North or from abroad. But at least for now, the most heavily unionized regions—the Northeast, the Midwest, the Northwest and California—still hold most of the country's wealthiest states and its most dynamic metro areas.

The more pertinent claim against organized labor may be on the public-sector side, where unions put significant pressure on state budgets, particularly with pension obligations. A new study by the Pew Center on the States finds a $1 trillion gap between what the states have promised their workers and what they've set aside.

3 Labor laws are not the issue—economics are.

Far from it. Even lawyers who represent employers say the system is badly outdated. There has not been a major change to labor laws since the anti-union Taft-Hartley Act of 1947. With no progress on the legislative side, energies have focused on the five-member National Labor Relations Board, the panel of presidential appointees that rules on election disputes and labor complaints appealed by unions and employers. The NLRB is such a political football that it borders on the dysfunctional. For the past 26 months, only two of its five seats have been filled. This can mean long delays for cases awaiting judgment. While the Labor Department has far fewer union elections to oversee these days—1,343 last year, down from 7,773 in 1970—it must process about 25,000 unfair-labor-practice charges per year, including many that arise from nasty jurisdictional disputes between unions.

The two board members, a Democrat and a Republican, have managed to make rulings on 500 or so less-controversial cases, but the weightier disputes have been set aside. Sixty cases have been pending for two years or more, and of them, 24 go back more than four years. And the Supreme Court is considering whether the two-person board is even allowed to have made the rulings that it did.

4 The Employee Free Choice Act would radically reshape the job market.

Not really. While the proposal would bring the biggest change in generations, it would leave some union challenges unaddressed. The bill as written would let workers form a union if a majority of them sign cards in favor of one, without having to hold a secret-ballot election at the workplace. Unions argue that such elections are unfairly influenced by employers. But even before Democrats lost their filibuster-proof Senate majority, they had all but jettisoned that part of the bill—dubbed "card check" by opponents—because it lacked support among conservative Democrats. Instead, the measure would now ease the process by shortening the window before elections, giving employers less time to sway workers, and by increasing the penalties for employer violations, both relatively incremental changes.

Arguably the more consequential part of the bill would be a new requirement: Employers and workers who do not reach a contract within several months after an election would need to submit to an outside me-

See 5 MYTHS on next page

EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Full moon over invite to the President

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime Vergara occasionally writes for the Opinion page of the Saipan Tribune.

Sunday ended China's celebration of the Spring Festival and the welcoming of the Lunar New Year of the Tiger. The moon showed itself with a halo, and Monday night was the same for a while as the moon played peek-a-boo behind the clouds.

The SVES Student Council aims to have 10,000 postcards sent to the Obama family to visit Saipan on their way to Indonesia and Australia via Guam. The possibility of their doing a pit stop is admittedly slim, but that is hardly the point now, is it?

The invitation—written Jan. 21, 2009, printed in this paper, and sent two days after the President's inauguration in Washington, D.C.—carried some 700 signatures from the students and teachers of the San Vicente Elementary School, dismissed by many as just a figment of a wayward imagination until November when the Office of the President gratefully acknowledged the letter and its message.

The chatty invite said in part: *"We are students of the San Vicente Elementary School of the Public School System of the Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands. Now, isn't that a mouthful? We wanted to catch your attention, since you are just starting your new job and pretty soon, the whole world will be in your in-basket. So we want to be at the head of the line.*

To the point: you and your family are hereby cordially, officially and enthusiastically invited to come visit our island. You can come to our school for lunch. Miss Miller, our vice principal, will make sure you get a nutritious plate at our new cafetoreum; Ms. Salas, our principal, will walk you through our hallways…

We'll give Ma'am Michelle a class period to teach us anything she wants, and we will teach Malia Ann and Natasha how to giggle the island way! And you can sit with our Social Studies teachers to make sure they got it right on government and democracy…

We are 'Where America's Day Begins.' Our cousins in Guam south of us coined the phrase but we think we are slightly further east longitudinally than they are so we have since joined them in that claim. So far, federal officials have only stopped over Guam on their way somewhere. It would be a great demonstration of your pledge to be President to all of us - Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands, American Samoa, Guam, and the CNMI - if sometime, you can physically and officially visit any of us. Of course, we would be honored if you keep us on top of your list. ... So, will you come visit us? We, too, are your new Americans!"

Then Council co-presidents Vanessa Gramlich and William Davis were main signatories.

As is often the case in Asia, the focus on inviting guest is not so much whether the guest will come, though that is fervently wished for, as it is a boomerang on the inviters to take a serious look at what the guest might encounter should they decide to come. Hosts in Asia often apologize to guests for inadequate food even if a 21-course laureate is laid out! While the point of the letter is for the Obama family to seriously consider a visit, it was also a challenge to San Vicente to keep its house and environs worth visiting.

Now, the invitation is publicly turning into a pleading to a liege lord to visit his vassals, as well as the shameless extending of a begging bowl on what DC might possibly send to alleviate our sad and suffering economic situation! Anyone of any official capacity, or anyone whose ego is bigger than his/her pea brain, seem to be tripping over one another for the chance to be known that they also are officially inviting the President!

Having just taken the inaugural Beijing-Saipan flight last month, I wandered around *Dong Bei* for four weeks on my winter that was already spring in the nation's calendar. I caught an early flight from Shenyang to Shanghai Friday morning with snow on the ground after a night of rain turning to sleet and then to ice. At 5am, men and women with stick brooms swept and sanded the iced streets so that traffic would move smoothly, particularly on those thoroughfares heading for the airport and the railway stations. This scene was common in most of the urban centers and rural settlements I visited.

These sweepers get paid anywhere from $120-180 a month, if they are paid at all, but on this frozen morning, they were out diligently clearing their assigned space on the road, unmindful of whether their bunch of unheralded "nobodies" would ever get any word of gratitude or recognition from the likes of me, enabled to catch a flight on time!

This is part of the China that Warren I. Cohen, professor emeritus at the University of Maryland, and a Woodrow Wilson scholar, bewails as what we are "stuck with." The eminent professor, of course, taught in Taiwan and by his writings, he thinks that China's economic power is a threat to U.S. stability, reflecting the thoughts of those who still think we let the *Koumintang* down when they fled across the Formosan Strait.

Yet the China of my acquaintance is succeeding economically because its cultural communalism waters down the rugged and self-centered individualism that marks the West's entrepreneurial spirit, and ironically, is demonstrating a revered American aphorism: "One can do anything if one is not too concerned who gets the credit."

PSS' two COEs ladies named Rita have both expressed that the operational mode of our education system be through leadership teams. We hope that spirit and practice spread like wildfire. It is a good sign that the SVES children do not seem to care who gets the credit if Obama does come. Getting the invite out, and making sure that SVES or any school is worth visiting, is finally where the rubber hits the road. Perhaps, SVES' community-based site management team can finally get its act together to show what a local school looks like when the administrators team up with the community!

The full moon will not shine over the Marianas on March 19, but the question of what the President might see if he came will have been raised. It will be a full moon in our communal hearts if together, youth and elders, children and government officials, suddenly each picked up a broom to spruce up our communal space, and wipe/brush paint on those unsightly graffiti, even if the President didn't come. Wouldn't it?

The silent fall of fences and walls

The Saipanpreneur Project

Creating economic success for the CNMI

By WALT F.J. GOODRIDGE
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Send article suggestions, entrepreneur nominations and feedback about this article to walt@passionprofit.com.

The only way to take control of your life, raise your standard of living and move beyond merely surviving is to create your own unique product or service that you offer to increasing numbers of people in exchange for the things of value that you desire. This simple formula applies to countries as well as people. A self-sufficient economy has its own products or services of value to export to the world. Similarly, a self-sufficient individual has something of value to exchange in the global marketplace. That thing of value is based on your natural talent, skill, or interest—in other words, your passion!

They said my escape could be easy as pie
Truth be told I just didn't believe
I'd gotten so used to the fences and walls
that I'd limited what I could achieve

They hinted that freedom might already be mine
I replied, "Oh, but surely you jest."
That new worlds might appear in the blink of an eye?
No, such promises seemed empty at best

But one day something happened! A shift DID occur!
When and where? Well, I just can't recall
But now left, right and center things fall into place
and it seems I do nothing at all!

I feel all at once I've been living a lie
How much further I'd be if I'd known
that these fences and walls I had built as a child
all this time I had long since outgrown

But when did they crumble? No trumpet was blown
no fanfare, no crash to discern
In the quiet of thought did my jail disappear
from this fact here's the truth that I've learned:

The breakthrough will always be silent, my friend
it's an elusive sound you won't hear
For no noise marks the fall of your fences and walls
because the truth is they're really not there.

COMMENTARY:

So, I was watching "Kung Fu Panda" last night. (um, did I say that out loud?) I won't give away the plot of the story for those who may wish to enjoy it, but the moral of the story is simply this:

"To make something special, you just have to believe it is special."

What a profound statement. What if it's true? (And it is.) Then think what a significant effect that could have on every aspect of your life. If you wanted to change any area of your life and start experiencing a different reality, you would simply have to believe that it is possible to do so, and you could do it. You could believe yourself into being special. You could believe yourself into being successful. You could believe yourself into accomplishing anything you desire.

The fences and walls you believed were keeping you out or keeping you in would fall in the instant your beliefs about them and about yourself changed.

It could happen at any moment. Who knows what may set it off? Who knows what may be the catalyst? The walls could very well crumble while you sleep tonight and you might wake tomorrow morning with rubble at your feet and a new vision in your eyes.

That possibility is made even more likely by the fact that the fears and obstacles and limitations we often perceive in life are often illusions we've created. That's why the fall is often very hard to detect. The truth is, they are not really there at all.

■ ■ ■ ■

Note: Ever wanted to direct your friends and family to a set of websites that revealed the best things about Saipan? Do what I do: send them to www.bestofsaipan.com!

Note: Fans and followers of the book, *Chicken Feathers and Garlic Skin: Diary of a Chinese Garment Factory Girl on Saipan* are encouraged to place orders at www.saipanfactorygirl.com. A new shipment is coming soon, and people are already claiming their copies even before it arrives! Don't miss out!

■ ■ ■ ■

Until next week, remember, success is a journey, not a destination!

Walt F.J. Goodridge is author of 15 books including Turn Your Passion Into Profit*. Walt offers coaching and workshops to help people pursue and profit from their passions. Originally from the island of Jamaica, Walt has grown several successful businesses in the US, and now makes his home here on Saipan. To learn more, visit www.passionprofit.com and follow Walt on Twitter (waltonsaipan).*

5 MYTHS

From Page 10

diator. As it now stands, more than a third of unions that win elections never secure a first contract. Employers ignore them, workers are afraid to strike in protest (strikes occur far less often than they used to), and the union eventually dissolves.

The legislation would not address what Wilma Liebman, the Democratic NLRB member, has argued is the unions' bigger problem. In a speech last week, she said the true challenge is in the economy's growing reliance on temporary and contingent workers and on undocumented immigrants, two categories that are difficult to organize.

Unions have the Democrats in their pocket.

They wish. Despite their diminished numbers, unions still pack a powerful punch in national politics—exit polls show that white, working-class union members in key swing states such as Pennsylvania, Ohio and Michigan vote for Democrats at far higher rates than white, working-class voters who are not in unions. And unions certainly have a seat at the table now after lacking one during the Bush years. Whereas then-AFL-CIO President John Sweeney was invited to the White House only once—for the pope's visit in 2008—Service Employees International Union President Andy Stern is now among the most frequent visitors to 1600 Pennsylvania Ave.

But what do they have to show for it? Obama has held off on pushing the Employee Free Choice Act. Union leaders were told to wait until health-care reform was done, and now even the compromise labor bill may be doomed with the loss of the 60th Democratic vote in the Senate. Obama's and the Senate's preferred funding source for universal health care is a tax on high-cost health plans, opposed by the unions; the White House had agreed to labor-friendly revisions, but they are now in doubt.

And then there is Becker. Obama has indicated that he will not install him in a recess appointment, even though his predecessor, George W. Bush, used recess appointments to install seven of his eight NRLB nominees. The unions are grumbling: If this is how their hard work in 2008 is repaid, don't expect much from labor's foot soldiers this fall in Altoona, Akron or Fort Wayne.

Alec MacGillis is a reporter on the national staff of The Washington Post*. macgillisa@washpost.com.*

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲86° ▼76°	▲86° ▼76°	▲86° ▼76°	▲86° ▼76°	▲86° ▼76°

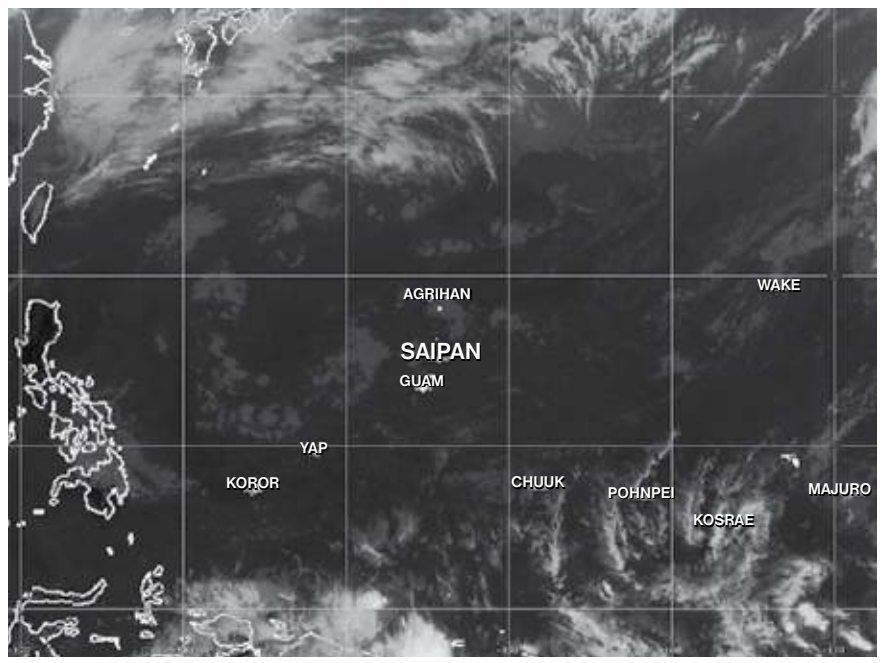
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Sunny	▲85	▼73
Palau	Mostly Sunny	▲89	▼77
Yap	Sunny	▲88	▼76
Chuuk	Mostly Sunny	▲89	▼79
Pohnpei	Showers	▲87	▼76
Kosrae	Mostly Sunny	▲88	▼75
Majuro	Showers	▲85	▼77

Around The Globe

Auckland	Showers	▲71	▼59
Beijing	Cloudy	▲41	▼28
Hong Kong	Sunny	▲79	▼72
Honolulu	Showers	▲77	▼69
London	Partly Sunny	▲45	▼34
Los Angeles	Showers	▲64	▼52
Manila	Sunny	▲89	▼75
Melbourne	Sunny	▲83	▼63
Miami	Partly Sunny	▲69	▼48
New York	Rain/Snow	▲38	▼32
Osaka	Cloudy	▲49	▼48
Paris	Cloudy	▲48	▼43
Pusan	Showers	▲52	▼51
Rome	Rain	▲57	▼49
Salem	Showers	▲55	▼35
San Francisco	Rain	▲59	▼44
Seoul	Mostly Cloudy	▲46	▼37
Tokyo	Cloudy	▲56	▼41
Washington, DC	Rain/Snow	▲42	▼30

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, TUESDAY, MARCH 2, 2010
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A surface trough extends southwestward from north of Wake Island at 25N169E to southwest of Wake Island at 15N163E then continues southeastward west of Kwajalein to end at EQ174E. Scattered showers are northeast of Wake Island between 21N and 25N from 173E to 176E within 130 miles of a line running southwestward from 21N180 to 16N176E and between Pohnpei and Kosrae within 25 miles of a line from 7N162E to 4N161E. Trade-wind convergence is causing scattered showers south of Palau between the equator and 1N from 132E to137E within 60 miles of 3N164E and between the equator and 1N from 167E to 168E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

3:26 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.2 Feet
9:22 AM	Today	High Tide:	2.1 Feet
3:59 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.1 Feet
10:00 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:33 AM	6:25 PM
Thursday	6:33 AM	6:25 PM
Friday	6:32 AM	6:25 PM
Saturday	6:31 AM	6:26 PM
Sunday	6:31 AM	6:26 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	8:57 PM	8:04 AM
Thursday	9:56 PM	8:49 AM
Friday	10:54 PM	9:37 AM
Saturday	11:51 PM	10:26 AM
Sunday		11:17 AM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

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ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MARCH 1, 2010

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

C09597	11:30am	12:05pm	1, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM

C09597	12:40pm	1:10pm	1, 7

SAIPAN-GUAM

C09317	4:25am	5:15am	Daily
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	Daily
C09597	11:30am	1:10pm	1, 7 via ROP
C09601	12:20pm	1:10pm	4, 5
C09603	3:15pm	4:05pm	Daily
C09605	6:20pm	7:10pm	Daily
C09599	9:20pm	10:10pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NAGOYA (NGO)

DL638	8:00am	10:55am	Daily

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	5:50am	8:40am	Daily
DL638/288	8:00am	1:30pm	1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via NGO
DL297	4:35pm	7:30pm	Daily
DL289	4:50pm	7:45pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 5

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ604	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ604	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ119	4:00am	11:25am	Daily via Osaka
		Arrive OSA 6:40am, leave OSA 9:30am	
OZ606	3:20pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

FM844	2:50am	5:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

CZ3008	3:30am	6:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ604/701	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ604/701	2:40am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ608/705	3:20am	1:30am+1	1, 4, 5, 7 via PUS
C09603/893	3:15pm	9:10pm	3, 5 via GUM-PALAU
OZ606/703	3:20pm	10:55pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
C09605/933	6:20pm	9:40pm	Daily via GUM
C09599/PR111	9:20pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG

OZ604/721	2:10am	12:00pm	1 via ICN
OZ604/721	2:40am	12:00pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ606/749	3:20pm	11:00pm	4, 6, 7 via ICN

ARRIVALS

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

C09598	3:10am	3:45am	5, 6
C09312	1:20pm	1:55pm	6

GUAM-ROTA (ROP)

C09598	2:00am	2:30am	5, 6
C09312	12:10pm	12:40pm	6

GUAM-SAIPAN

C09316	2:00am	2:50am	1, 2, 3, 4, 7
C09598	2:00am	3:45am	5, 6 via ROP
C09596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
C09600	10:05am	10:55am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7
C09312	12:10pm	1:55pm	6 via ROP
C09602	1:50pm	2:40pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09604	4:50pm	5:40pm	Daily
C09606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily

NAGOYA (NGO)-SAIPAN

DL639	9:00pm	1:30am+1	Daily Ops 5min later eff Mar 1

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL290	10:00am	2:30pm	Daily
DL298	10:15am	2:45pm	Daily
DL287/639	5:50pm	1:30am+1	1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via NGO
DL288	9:00pm	1:40am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	2:10am+1	4, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ605	9:00am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7
OZ120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	Daily via Osaka
		Arrive OSA 8:50pm, leave OSA 9:50pm	
OZ603	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ603	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

FM843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1, 5

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

CZ3007	7:30pm	2:40am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

OZ706/607	3:35am	2:10am+1	3, 4, 6, 7 via PUS
OZ702/603	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/603	1:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/C09596	10:10pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
C0892/9596	10:10pm	7:50am+1	3,5 via PALAU-GUM
C0934/9596	11:10pm	7:50am+1	Daily via GUM
OZ704/605	11:55pm	2:20pm+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via ICN

HONG KONG-SAIPAN

OZ724/605	12:30am	2:20pm	2 ,4 ,6, 7 via ICN
OZ750/605	1:00am	2:20pm	2, 4 ,6 ,7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:30pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:30pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

Ex-remittance center manager pleads not guilty

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A former manager of a remittance center who, together with another woman, was charged in federal court for allegedly defrauding a Philippine bank of approximately $109,855.33 entered a not guilty plea yesterday.

Armilaine Salamat, also known as Armilaine Legaspi Lizama, pleaded not guilty to the indictment charging her with one count of conspiracy to commit wire fraud, and two counts of wire fraud.

U.S. District Court for the NMI designated judge Robert Naraja set the jury trial for May 3, 2010, at 9am.

Naraja appointed attorney Loren Sutton as counsel for Salamat after her former lawyer, Vicente Salas, asked the court to be allowed to withdraw due to "serious conflicts of interest."

Naraja agreed to temporarily release Salamat after she executed an unsecured $5,000 bond.

The judge barred Salamat from leaving Saipan without the court's permission.

The indictment also charged Ana Maria Villadiego Villegas, a co-owner of the former Philippine Express Remittance, with one count of conspiracy, and two counts of wire fraud.

Villegas, also known as Anna Marie V. Villegas and Mary Ann, was taken to the federal court on Friday.

Munson set the jury trial of Villegas for May 3 and temporary freed her on a $25,000 unsecured bond.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Beverly McCallum is prosecuting the case.

According to the indictment, the scheme to defraud began in 2004 when Villegas, then a co-owner of Philippine Express Remittance, began passing checks drawn on insufficient funds at PNB Express.

PNB Express was then a subsidiary of Philippine National Bank. At that time, Salamat was the manager of PNB Express.

Despite the eventual losses from Villegas' worthless checks, Salamat continued to allow Villegas to transact many worthless checks at PNB Express.

Salamat also transmitted directions by wire for Philippine National Bank to transfer funds into a foreign bank account, based on Villegas' worthless checks.

When all of Villegas' checks were processed, Philippine National Bank sustained a total loss of about $109,855.33.

NMPASI sues Fund on behalf of retiree

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Northern Marianas Protection and Advocacy Systems Inc. filed a lawsuit in federal court yesterday against the Retirement Fund on behalf of a retiree who was allegedly refused payment for his disability retirement annuity.

Mariano A. Arriola, through counsel Jeanne H. Rayphand of NMPASI, named as defendants the NMI Retirement Fund, the Fund's board of trustees, Fund administrator Mark A. Aguon, and five unnamed co-defendants.

Arriola sued the defendants for deprivation of his civil rights, deprivation of right to due process, breach of good faith and fair dealing, and breach of contract.

Rayphand stated in the complaint that Arriola was employed by DPW from Sept. 3, 1990 through Jan. 6, 2010. Rayphand said her client is a Class I member of the Fund, and at the time of his separation from service on Jan. 6, 2010, his salary was $18,356 per annum.

On Nov. 19, 2007, Arriola applied for disability retirement and submitted certifications of two licensed and practicing physicians.

The lawyer said that, on Jan. 15, 2009, Aguon decided to retroactively apply Public Law 16-19 to require Arriola to "undergo another medical examination."

Arriola exhausted his annual leave and sick leave. Effective Jan. 6, 2010 his employment was terminated because he was unable to work as a result of his disability.

Raphand said that on Jan. 29, 2010, Arriola, through NMPASI, attempted to file at the Fund a written certification that he has been separated from government service because of his disability.

The plaintiff also attempted to file a written request for disability retirement annuity in the amount of 66 2/3 percent of his salary, commencing on the next regular payment date retroactive to Jan. 6, 2010.

A Fund staff on duty at the lobby reception desk informed NMPASI that they had been instructed that Arriola's documents could not be accepted.

"The defendants' action in refusing to accept documents from the plaintiff in support of his application for disability retirement is without reason for basis, and is so arbitrary, capricious, and unfounded that the plaintiff is thereby denied due process of law," Rayphand said.

NMC instructor publishes translation of book

A new faculty member of Northern Marianas College, Marcelo González, has recently published his first book translation, the Spanish edition of *The Development of Literary Blackness in the Dominican Republic* (Stinchcomb 2004). Published last month as *Negritud Literaria en la República Dominicana,* by the South American publishing house Editorial Abya-Yala, the book analyzes the Spanish-language literature of this Caribbean-island nation in the context of race and cultural identity.

Marcelo González is an English and Spanish instructor, as well as a literary and technical translator. Before joining NMC's Department of Languages & Humanities, González taught in several countries of Latin America, including Chile, Puerto Rico, Mexico and the Dominican Republic.

He is currently working to secure the publication of his second book translation, the Spanish edition of *Gunboat Democracy: US Interventions in the Dominican Republic, Grenada and Panama* (Crandall 2006). The author, Dr. Dawn Stinchcomb, is an associate professor of Afro-Hispanic literature of Purdue University. The publisher, Editorial Abya-Yala, has received several awards, including the Spanish government's *Premio Bartolomé de las Casas*. The book is currently available on Abya-Yala's Web site [www.abyayala.org], and will be available shortly on Amazon.com.

For more information, including side-by-side excerpts in Spanish and English, visit the Marcelo's profile at www.proz.com/profile/103641 (and click on Portfolio) or email Marcelo directly at MarceloG@nmcnet.edu.

"On behalf of the NMC family, we would like to congratulate our faculty member, Mr. Gonzalez, on the publishing of his first book translation and for an ingenious accomplishment!" said Lorraine T. Cabrera, NMC interim president. "We are proud that his work is shared internationally so that others may benefit from his book." ***(NMC)***

NMC
Marcelo Gonzalez with his newly published book translation titled *Negritud Literaria en la República Dominicana*.

Former Saipan residents witness Vancouver Olympics

Former Saipan resident Bing Chavez and her family got into the Olympic experience earlier this month when they visited the site of the 2010 Olympic Winter Games in Vancouver, British Columbia.

From nearby Langley, Chavez—along with her husband Elmer, daughter Krystele, and son Joshua—were unable to witness the Games' opening ceremony last Feb. 12 but were able to see the Olympic torch.

"It is moving for 'Beautiful British Columbia' to be chosen as the venue for the 2010 Olympic Winter Games, as this is the first time," said Krystele.

She said the opening of the Games culminated a frenzy of activity.

"The Olympic Torch had a relay from city to city, and the townspeople were exuberant to see the celebrities who held the torch, including Steve Nash from NBA's Phoenix Suns and Arnold Schwarzenegger. From station to station, you hear the Canadian people singing their anthem. Also, strolling the streets of downtown Vancouver was a struggle because everyone was walking at such a fast clip. The Olympic Torch was such a beauty and everyone was so amazed. Many were dressed in Canada's hockey jersey to show their spirit," she said.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Joshua, Bing, Elmer and Krystele Chavez pose in front of the Olympic cauldron. Thousands and thousands of people from all over the world visited the place everyday during the duration of the 2010 Winter Olympics.

Krystele added that their adopted city did a good job in hosting the 2010 Olympic Winter Games.

"It was organized well; tourists did not have a difficult time with directions due to the friendly atmosphere by the organizing committee staff. Along each sidewalk, there were booths set up with various goodies to hand out. Vancouver is an even more diverse city because of all the nationalities that came to visit. Many enjoyed the coastal bay scenery British Columbia has to offer, as well as the moderate climate," she said. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

MMAC team captains' meeting today

There will be a 2010 Marianas March Against Cancer team captains meeting today, March 3, 2010, at the Hyatt Regency's Chamolinian Room. The meeting will begin at 5:30PM. All team captains or their representatives are encouraged to attend this important meeting as critical information will be discussed. A reminder that team registration forms and fees are due on April 9, 2010. Teams that submit their fees will be allowed to choose their tent space on a first come first serve basis. No reservations are allowed. For luminary information, please contact Catherine Attao at attao20@yahoo.com. For entertainment information, please contact Jojo Camacho at jojo@marpacspn.com.

The 2010 Marianas March Against Cancer will be held on Friday, May 14, 2010, at the Hopwood Junior High School field in Chalan Piao. All interested individuals and companies are invited to support the battle against cancer in one way or another. Email janine.nogis@gmail.com for more information. ***(PR)***

Chamber membership meeting today

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce will have its monthly general membership meeting today, March 3, 2010, at the Pacific Islands Club's Charley's Cabaret. Dr. John Griffin, newly-appointed chair of the Northern Marianas College Business Department, will share his thoughts about the direction in which he would like to lead the department. This will be a great opportunity to hear about what sort of degree programs could be developed to benefit employees and employers in the islands, and what the business community might be able to do to assist these efforts. Members will also hear an update on the status of the U.S. Census in the Commonwealth.

Registration and lunch will begin at 11:30am, and the meeting will begin at noon. The meeting is $15 for members, $20 for guests of members, and $25 for general public. ***(PR)***

DEQ brigade sets cleanup

The Division of Environmental Quality cleanup brigade will be at it again, picking up trash at Cow Town Beach in Marpi.

If you would like to volunteer your time to clean and beautify our island, meet the DEQ representatives on Saturday, March 6, 2010, at 8am at the former Cow Town parking lot. Volunteers will split into groups and go east or west cleaning the beach until 10am and break for drinks and then continue, if needed.

This month, outstanding brigade volunteers who participated in at least 10 monthly cleanups will receive a brigade cap and those who participated in at least three cleanups will receive a green brigade t-shirt.

For more information about volunteering, contact the DEQ office at 664-8500. ***(PR)***

Island Snapshots

ANTI-BULLYING MARCH

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Public school students march from American Memorial Park to the Carolinian Utt in Garapan on Friday afternoon, to raise awareness about the ill effects of bullying and to promote camaraderie among students.

POSTER CONTEST WINNERS

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Brianna C. Hunter of Mount Carmel School shows off her artwork that won her first place in the 2010 CNMI Census Student Poster Contest's Elementary Division. Her entry bested 293 other submissions to claim the top spot, winning for herself $200. At left is acting Gov. Eloy Inos.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Keanah Deleon Guerrero of Hopwood Junior High School shows off her poster entry in the 2010 CNMI Census Student Poster Contest. Deleon Guerrero won first place in the Middle/Jr. High Division, her entry garnering top scores among 48 total entries. She also got $200 as her prize.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

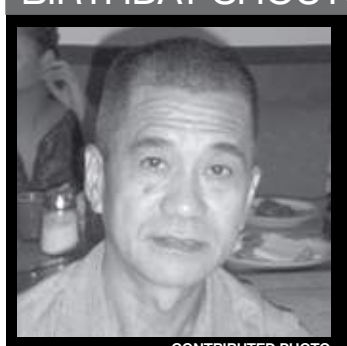
Rozette Bunao of Marianas High School bested 45 other entries to claim the top prize in the High School Division of the 2010 CNMI Census Student Poster Contest. Bunao's feat won her the $200 first place prize.

CHALLENGE BOWL CHAMPIONS

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Marianas Baptist Academy has topped the 8th Annual Academic Challenge Bowl. Participants Kanata Omori, Denise Samson, Alina Ishikawa, Won Woo Choi, HyeYoung Oh, and coach Le'ah Murphy receive their trophy for winning first place in this year's edition of the national competition.

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Belated happy birthday to our dad, Raymond Tupas, who celebrated his special day yesterday, March 2. May you have many more birthdays to come! We love and miss you! Greetings come from your family in San Antonio, Texas.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy birthday greetings go out to Jessica Nicole T. Pineda, who is celebrating her fifth birthday! "Today is your day to shine as everyday should be. Happy birthday and we love you." Greetings come from your family.

Business

AIG to sell Asian life insurer to repay bailouts

By IEVA M. AUGSTUMS
and DANIEL WAGNER
AP BUSINESS WRITERS

Helping AIG
U.K. insurer Prudential PLC has agreed to buy AIG's Asian insurance unit in a $35.5 billion deal that will help AIG repay some of its government debt.
Prudential PLC
AIG
American International Group
Headquarters
London
New York
CEO
Tidjane Thiam
Robert Benmosche
Sales, 2008
$11.1 million
$14.9 million
Profit, loss
–$566 million (2008)
+$1.0 billion (2009)
–$99.3 billion (2008)
–$10.1 billion (2009)
Profile
U.K.'s largest insurer, biggest European insurer in Asia; products include insurance, annuities, investment bonds, fund management
One of the world's largest insurers; owes about $130 billion in bailout funds to U.S. government, which owns more than 80% of company
© 2010 MCT
Source: Company reports, Hoover's
Graphic: Pat Carr

American International Group Inc. is selling a cornerstone of its business, Asia-based life insurer AIA Group, in a government-approved $35.5 billion deal. The sale to British insurer Prudential PLC could reduce by nearly one-fifth the amount of federal bailout money still invested in struggling AIG.

But officials and analysts say it's not clear whether taxpayers will eventually recoup all the money AIG drew from a $182.5 billion rescue package the government committed to at the height of the 2008 credit crisis. In return for that package, the government got a nearly 80 percent stake in the insurer.

The sale is another step in AIG's ongoing attempt to restructure its business, become profitable and repay the government. Exactly how it plans to do that remains unclear.

The AIA deal will give AIG $25 billion in cash and $10.5 billion in securities. The cash portion would allow AIG to pay back nearly 20 percent of the almost $130 billion in bailout funds that are outstanding. Together with an anticipated sale of American Life Insurance Co., or Alico, to MetLife Inc., the sale could net enough to eventually cover the Federal Reserve Bank of New York's $47.9 billion investment in AIG.

AIG debt to the government also includes $47.3 billion owed the U.S. Treasury and has $34.5 billion in outstanding assistance tied to the value of investments the New York Fed bought to prop up AIG.

Reports show modest but steady economic recovery

NEW YORK (AP)—Mixed reports Monday on manufacturing, construction and personal income and spending made clear that the economy is enjoying modest growth even though the recovery remains fragile.

Manufacturing output expanded in February for a seventh straight month. Factory output has provided one of the few areas of strength for the economy. Still, the growth in manufacturing activity slowed compared with January and fell short of economists' expectations.

In addition, construction spending fell for a third straight month in January. And though personal spending rose slightly more than expected, Americans' incomes scarcely budged. In part, that was because Social Security recipients didn't get their usual cost-of-living boost.

The weak income growth could depress spending in the months ahead and drag on the economy's rebound.

The Institute for Supply Management, a trade group of purchasing executives, said its manufacturing index read 56.5 last month. That was slower than the 58.4 reading in January. A reading above 50 indicates expansion.

The ISM said its employment measure grew for the fourth time in five months, accelerating to 56.1 in February from 53.3 in January. February's number is the highest since January 2005. Gauges of production and new orders fell, indicating slower growth ahead.

GM to recall 1.3M compacts for steering problem

DETROIT (AP)—General Motors Co. said Monday it will recall 1.3 million Chevrolet and Pontiac compact cars sold in the U.S., Canada and Mexico to fix power steering motors that can fail.

The recall affects 2005 to 2010 Chevrolet Cobalts, 2007 to 2010 Pontiac G5s, 2005 and 2006 Pontiac Pursuits sold in Canada and 2005 and 2006 Pontiac G4s sold in Mexico.

The automaker said the vehicles are still safe to drive and never lose their steering, but it may be harder to steer them when traveling under 15 mph.

GM spokesman Alan Adler said it will take time for the automaker to get 1.3 million new power steering motors from the supplier, JTEKT Corp., and GM will notify car owners when the parts are available.

Adler said the failures are rare and the cars can still be driven until motors can be replaced by dealers. Drivers will see a warning light and hear a chime if the power steering fails, but they could be surprised when the steering becomes more difficult.

GM told the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration about the recall on Monday. NHTSA began an investigation into 905,000 of the models on Jan. 27 after getting 1,100 complaints that the cars lost their power steering assist. The complaints included 14 crashes and one injury.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Kohn to leave Fed in June; gives Obama opening

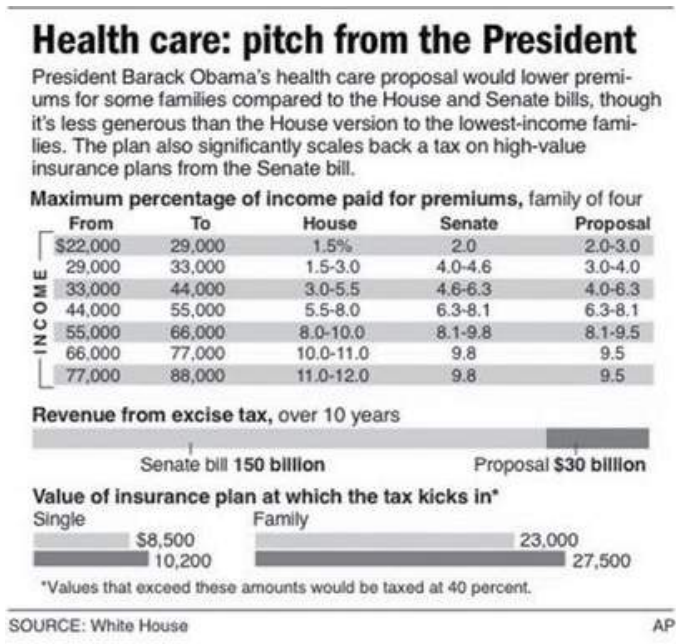
WASHINGTON (AP)—Federal Reserve Vice Chairman Donald Kohn's decision to step down at the end of June gives President Barack Obama a chance to put a bigger imprint on the central bank. Kohn, the Fed's second-highest ranking official, has played a major role in shaping the Fed's strategy in fighting the worst financial and economic crises to hit the country since the Great Depression. His departure will open up a third seat on the seven-member Federal Reserve board in Washington. Board members are picked by the president and must be confirmed by the Senate.

Senate moves toward a deal on Wall Street regs

WASHINGTON (AP)—Senate negotiators closed in on a deal on Wall Street regulations Monday, proposing a new entity inside the Federal Reserve to oversee consumer financial products ranging from credit cards to mortgages. Three people familiar with the talks told The Associated Press that key members of the Senate Banking Committee were reviewing the plan but had not yet signed off on it. If the details are worked out, the plan would represent a major step toward creating new regulations aimed at preventing a recurrence of the financial crisis of 2008.

Nation

9 Dems who voted no on health bill may reconsider



WASHINGTON (AP)—Nine House Democrats indicated in an Associated Press survey Monday they have not ruled out switching their "no" votes to "yes" on President Barack Obama's health care overhaul, brightening the party's hopes in the face of unyielding Republican opposition.

The White House tried to smooth the way for them, showing its own openness to changes in the landmark legislation and making a point of saying the administration is not using parliamentary tricks or loopholes to find the needed support.

Democratic leaders have strongly signaled they will use a process known as "budget reconciliation" to try to push part of the package through the Senate without allowing Republicans to talk it to death with filibusters. The road could be even more difficult in the House, where Speaker Nancy Pelosi is struggling to secure enough Democratic votes for approval, thus the effort to attract former foes.

The White House said Obama will outline his final "way forward" in a Washington speech Wednesday, and he is expected to embrace a handful of Republican ideas for making health care more efficient.

Parents say doctors hastened death for dying kids

CHICAGO (AP)—It's a situation too agonizing to contemplate—a child dying and in pain. Now a small but provocative study suggests that doctors may be giving fatal morphine doses to a few children dying of cancer, to end their suffering at their parents' request.

A handful of parents told researchers that they had asked doctors to hasten their children's deaths—and that doctors complied, using high doses of the powerful painkiller.

The lead author of the study and several other physicians said they doubt doctors are engaged in active mercy killing. Instead, they speculate the parents interviewed for the study mistakenly believed that doctors had followed their wishes.

A more likely scenario is that doctors increased morphine doses to ease pain, and that the children's subsequent deaths were only coincidental, said lead author Dr. Joanne Wolfe, a palliative pain specialist at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute and Children's Hospital in Boston.

The American Medical Association, American Academy of Pediatrics and most other mainstream doctor groups oppose mercy-killing but say withholding life-prolonging treatment for dying patients can be ethical.

Dr. Douglas Diekema, a medical ethicist at Seattle Children's Hospital, said the study results are not surprising.

2,000 transportation workers idled over impasse

WASHINGTON (AP)—Jobless benefits suddenly ended for some laid-off workers, Medicare payments to doctors were delayed and 2,000 federal transportation workers were sent home Monday in a spending dispute tinged with election-year politics.

Democrats seized on the impasse to portray Republicans as obstructionists willing to block popular programs that create jobs and provide relief to the unemployed. Adding its voice to the flap, the White House said it was trying to "shame" Republican Sen. Jim Bunning of Kentucky for single-handedly blocking the $10 billion extension.

In fact, it appeared the spat would have little impact on ordinary Americans because lawmakers expect to resolve the dispute this week.

But in the meantime, 41 highway projects were to be shut down because federal inspectors were off the job, and the Obama administration ordered Medicare billing contractors not to pay any claims from doctors for the first 10 business days of March. Most laid-off workers receiving unemployment benefits won't be affected—unless the impasse drags on—but those seeking payment extensions won't be able to obtain them.

"Six times last week, Democrats asked to extend their unemployment benefits for a short time while they work on a longer extension. Six times, Republicans said no," said Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev. "The Republicans in the Senate are standing between these families and the help they need while these benefits expire."

SeaWorld workers describe frenzy of fatal attack

MIAMI (AP)—A killer whale that dragged a trainer to her death eluded SeaWorld workers' frenzied efforts to corral it with plastic nets while it swam pool-to-pool, according to witness statements released Monday.

After the massive whale was finally trapped last week, it refused to unclench its teeth and let go of Dawn Brancheau, according to the investigative reports released by the Orange County Sheriff's Office. Its jaws were eventually pried open.

"The whale would not let us have her," another trainer, Jodie Ann Tintle, told investigators after the Wednesday attack.

Investigators have said that the 40-year-old trainer died from multiple traumatic injuries and drowning.

In the new investigative reports, Brancheau's co-workers describe the swiftness of the attack and the furious response that came after alarms sounded around the pool. Employees who were at other pools, behind computers or emptying coolers of fish rushed to the scene.

Asia

NKorea vows to bolster nuclear deterrent

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—North Korea vowed Tuesday to strengthen its nuclear deterrent and its means of delivery—an apparent reference to missiles—days after threatening rival South Korea and U.S. forces with attack if they conduct military exercises as planned next week.

The threat comes as the U.S. and other dialogue partners are pushing for the North's communist regime to rejoin disarmament talks it pulled out of last year in anger over international condemnation of a long-range rocket launch. Soon after, it conducted its second atomic test—a move that drew tighter U.N. sanctions.

The North's official Korean Central News Agency said Tuesday there will be no progress in denuclearization on the Korean Peninsula unless the U.S. removes its nuclear threat against the North.

The U.S. denies posing such a military threat to the North, although it retains about 28,500 troops in South Korea.

The North wants sanctions lifted and peace talks to formally resolve the 1950-53 Korean War—which ended in a truce, not a peace treaty. The U.S., South Korea and Japan have responded the North must first return to the disarmament talks and make progress on denuclearization.

"Should the U.S. persist in its unrealistic moves to stifle the (North) in disregard of its realistic proposal, this will only compel it to boost its nuclear deterrent and its delivery means," the KCNA dispatch said.

The North routinely issues threats about its nuclear deterrent, but it is the first time it has referred to how it would deliver a nuclear weapon.

The North is believed have enough weaponized plutonium for at least half a dozen atomic bombs, and has been developing a long-range missile designed to strike the U.S. Experts say, however, it has not mastered the technology required to mount a nuclear warhead onto the missile.

The statement comes ahead of annual U.S.-South Korean military drills starting in South Korea next Monday. Last week, the North threatened a "powerful"—even nuclear—attack if the drills go ahead.

The North says the exercises are preparation for an invasion, but the U.S. and South Korea say the maneuvers are purely defensive.

US envoys' Beijing visit aims to heal ties

BEIJING (AP)—Top U.S. envoys were due in Beijing on Tuesday on a mission to patch up ties rocked by a flurry of disputes over trade, Taiwan and other sensitive issues.

Deputy Secretary of State James Steinberg and Senior White House Asia adviser Jeffrey Bader are expected to meet Chinese Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi and other leaders during the visit scheduled to run through Thursday.

The State Department said Steinberg would also discuss efforts to restart six-nation talks on ending North Korea's nuclear programs, along with hoped-for Chinese support for a new round of sanctions against Iran.

"We've gone through a bit of a bumpy path here, and I think there's an interest both within the United States and China to get back to business as usual as quickly as possible," State Department spokesman P.J. Crowley said in Washington on Monday.

China suspended military exchanges after Washington announced a $6.4 billion weapons package for Taiwan in January and has threatened to retaliate against U.S. aerospace firms involved in the deal.

Beijing protested again when President Barack Obama met at the White House with Tibet's exiled leader the Dalai Lama, whom Beijing accuses of seeking independence for the Himalayan region.

Beijing has also lashed back angrily at Google's announcement in January that its e-mail accounts were hacked from China and was reconsidering whether to keep filtering Chinese search results. Soon after, U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton criticized the censorship of cyberspace, and China's Foreign Ministry said her remarks damaged bilateral relations.

Rescued Chinese hostage dies in Philippines

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—A Chinese man rescued after being held captive by al-Qaida-linked militants for three months in the southern Philippines has died of kidney complications just days after he was freed, police said Tuesday.

Oscar Lu died in a Philippine hospital Monday, three days after security forces rescued him and another Chinese plywood factory worker on southern Basilan Island, where Abu Sayyaf militants had been holding them and demanding a ransom for their release, police said.

Lu, 51, also known as Zi Shun Lu, was in poor health when he was rescued, suffering from a kidney ailment and low blood pressure, regional police commander Sonny David said. Authorities notified his family and arrangements were made for his body to be sent to China, David said.

The two men were abducted by the Abu Sayyaf in November together with a Filipino, who was later beheaded after his family failed to meet a ransom demand.

A day after they were rescued, the militants rampaged through a sleeping Basilan village, killing 12 people, including four children.

Authorities first reported that Saturday's attack might have been retaliation for the recent killing of an Abu Sayyaf commander and the arrests of two others but later said it appeared to have been a vendetta against the village chief.

The Abu Sayyaf, which is fighting to create an Islamic state in the predominantly Christian nation, has about 400 fighters. It is on the U.S. list of terrorist organizations because of two decades of bomb attacks, kidnappings and attacks on civilians.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Afghan complaints show obstacles ahead in war

MARJAH, Afghanistan (AP)—One by one, residents of Marjah stood up before Afghan officials Monday to voice complaints—their houses damaged, relatives killed during this month's massive military offensive in southern Afghanistan. The frank litany of problems—aired at a meeting called to affirm central government support—highlights the challenge in store for NATO and Afghan authorities as they seek to transform the former Taliban stronghold into a model for counterinsurgency. Their visit occurred on a day when six NATO service members were killed in separate attacks around the country, showing that hard fighting lies ahead even if pacifying Marjah is successful. At least 10 Afghan civilians also died in a string of bombings in the south, officials said.

Chinese man says he killed roommate over snoring

BEIJING (AP)—A Chinese college student fed up with his roommate's snoring, has confessed to stabbing him to death in the middle of the night. Zhao Yan, 22, was stabbed in the chest and back late last year in his room at Jilin Agricultural University in the northeastern province of Jilin, the official Xinhua News Agency reported Tuesday. His roommate, 23-year-old Guo Liwei, confessed Monday that he stabbed Zhao because of a dispute over his snoring, the report said, citing the Changchun Intermediate People's Court.

World

Tsunami sweeps away entire towns on Chilean coast

TALCAHUANO, Chile (AP)—When the shaking stopped, Marioli Gatica and her extended family huddled in a circle on the floor of their seaside wooden home in this gritty port town, listening to the radio by a lantern's light.

They heard firefighters urging Talcahuano's citizens to stay calm and stay inside. They heard nothing of a tsunami—until it slammed into their house with an unearthly roar about an hour after Saturday's magnitude 8.8 quake.

AP

A boat lies marooned near the coast in Talcahuano, Chile, Monday, March 1, 2010. An 8.8-magnitude earthquake struck central Chile early Saturday, causing widespread damage.

Gatica's house exploded with water. She and her family were swept below the surface, swirling amid loose ship containers and other massive debris that smashed buildings into oblivion all around them.

"We were sitting there one moment and the next I looked up into the water and saw cables and furniture floating," Gatica said.

She clung to her 11-year-old daughter, Ninoska Elgueta, but the rush of water ripped the girl from her hands. Then the wave retreated as suddenly as it came.

Two of the giant containers crushed Gatica's home. A third landed seaward of where she floated, preventing the retreating tsunami from dragging her and other relatives away.

Soon Ninoska was back in her mother's arms—she had grabbed a tree branch to avoid being swept away and climbed down as soon as the sea receded.

Gatica's son, husband and 76-year-old father were OK as well, as were her sister and her family. The only relative missing was her 76-year-old mother, Nery Valdebenito, Gatica said as she waited in a hundreds-long line outside a school to report her losses.

"I think my mother is trapped beneath" the house, Gatica said.

As she spoke, firefighters with search dogs were examining the ruins of her home blocks away. Minutes later, the group leader drew his finger across his neck: No one alive under the house.

In ruined Haiti schools, educators see opportunity

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP)—After seven weeks with seven kids huddled under a shelter of tarps and bed sheets on the median strip of a busy road, Lissithe Delomme says the Haitian government can't reopen schools fast enough.

"If they would open right now I'd be pretty happy," she said, trying to ignore the tumult of two of her boys wrestling as she fried up a batch of plantains for sale. "They're just sitting around doing nothing."

The Jan. 12 quake dealt a devastating blow to Haiti's already struggling schools: More than 80 percent in the earthquake zone were damaged or destroyed. All in Port-au-Prince and the other affected towns remain closed, and with tens of thousands of bored and restless children living in increasingly squalid encampments, patience is growing short.

On Monday, a group of private school directors delivered a petition to President Rene Preval decrying the lack of government action and demanding schools reopen immediately—be they in tents, temporary buildings or other makeshift facilities.

WORLD BRIEFS

Europe storm death toll at 62; France hardest hit

PARIS (AP)—Rescue workers in dinghies cruised flooded streets on France's Atlantic coast Monday, searching for people still trapped in their homes by storms that smashed through concrete sea walls and killed at least 62 people across Western Europe. The storm, called Xynthia, blew into France early Sunday with hurricane-force winds, flooding ports, destroying homes and leaving 1 million households without electricity. It also battered Belgium, Portugal, Spain and parts of Germany and snarled train and air travel throughout the continent. President Nicolas Sarkozy toured the worst-hit areas Monday, the coastal regions of Vendee and Charente-Maritime, and pledged euro3 million ($4 million) in emergency aid.

Argentina asks US help to end Falklands spat

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (AP)—Argentina asked for U.S. help Monday in resolving a brewing dispute with Britain over the Southern Atlantic islands that were the subject of a brief war more than 25 years ago and where Britain has begun drilling for oil. Argentine President Cristina Fernandez said she made the request during an unexpectedly lengthy meeting with visiting Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton. Clinton said the United States will encourage the two countries to talk. Britain has opposed outside mediation.

Karadzic: Islamic militants to blame for bloodshed

THE HAGUE, Netherlands (AP)—Wartime Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic, defending himself against charges of Europe's worst genocide since the Holocaust, told judges Monday he was not the barbarian depicted by U.N. prosecutors, but was protecting his people against a fundamentalist Muslim plot. During a four-hour opening defense statement at the U.N. war crimes tribunal, Karadzic barely referred to specific allegations of mass murder at Srebrenica, indiscriminate shelling of Sarajevo, the destruction of Bosnian Muslim and Croat villages or the displacement of hundreds of thousands of people during the 1992-95 war in Bosnia.

Campus Life

Colleges enlist parents' help to curb students' alcohol, drug use

By JENNA JOHNSON
(C) 2010, THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON—For years, Virginia Tech had a complicated system for deciding when to let parents know about their underage children's alcohol-related transgressions: Visits to the hospital or police station warranted immediate notification. But Mom and Dad didn't have to know about less-serious offenses, such as sneaking a six-pack into the dorm, unless it happened more than once.

But this semester, Virginia Tech has joined a growing list of colleges that notify parents every time a student younger than 21 is caught drinking, drunk or in possession of alcohol.

While privacy laws prohibit university officials from communicating with parents about much more than paying tuition bills, concern about alcohol-related injuries and deaths, rising alcoholism on campus and lawsuits have moved many universities to ask for parents' help. Research shows that parents can have significant influence on their children's drinking habits.

"Students are more concerned about their parents being notified than they are of the legal consequences," said Edward Spencer, vice president for student affairs at Virginia Tech.

For more than a decade, universities have had the legal authority to make such notifications, but many do so only case by case, and only for the most serious incidents. Others restrict parental notification to drug crimes.

The University of Delaware implemented an every-time-notification policy in the late 1990s. School officials say the policy, along with aggressive alcohol violation penalties, has reduced binge drinking on campus and curtailed its party-school reputation.

About the same time, George Washington University in Washington implemented a similar policy. In 1999, Texas A&M University and Ohio University followed suit, as did Catholic University in 2000. In the past five years, several schools have joined the list, including the University of Georgia in 2006 and the University of New Mexico in 2007. In 2008, Tennessee created a state law that requires all public higher-education institutions to notify parents of all alcohol violations.

AP

In this photo made Monday, Feb. 22, 2010, Virginia Tech senior and resident advisor, David Dorsett, left, chats with fellow dorm resident and freshman Matt Londrey of Richmond, Va., at Lee Hall on the campus of Virginia Tech in Blacksburg, Va.

College drinking is getting worse, according to researchers at the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism. Between 1998 and 2005, binge drinking rates increased, more students drove while drunk and the number of alcohol-related deaths rose from 1,440 to 1,825.

"The problem is not getting better, but I think it can be turned around," said Ralph Hingson, the director of epidemiology and prevention research at the Bethesda, Md., institute. "Interventions at multiple levels make a difference."

Virginia Tech has long had some of the strictest alcohol sanctions in the region, including a three-strikes policy: two strikes for serious offenses, one for minor offenses. Students who rack up three strikes during their school careers are asked to leave for at least a semester.

The university decided to change its notification policy because officials had received complaints from parents who wanted to know whether their child had a drinking problem long before it got serious. The policy also applies to illegal drugs, including marijuana, but students caught with any drug are almost always suspended.

Student body President Brandon Carroll said students were "shocked" when they heard about the policy change. Even though the university is legally able to share such information that doesn't mean that it should, said Carroll, 21. "If the school calls someone's parent, that could put a lot of pressure on them. And how is that going to help?" he said.

Don't wait to file for financial aid from colleges

By EILEEN AMBROSE
THE BALTIMORE SUN

Colleges are bracing for another year of high demand for financial aid—and that means students need to get their applications in as quickly as possible.

Federal student loans remain plentiful, but other types of aid from states and colleges are more limited. By missing one of the many deadlines, students could receive fewer sought-after grants and scholarships that don't have to be repaid, and end up having to apply for loans that do.

"It will be another competitive year," says Sarah Bauder, director of financial aid for the University of Maryland-College Park. Aid applications so far at the state university are up 12 percent over last year, while federal funding for work-study and certain education grants has been slashed, Bauder says.

Blame the continued weak economy for the stiff competition for aid. Unemployment remains high. Families that have burned through cash reserves now are applying for aid for the first time, aid officials say.

In addition, a bumper crop of high school seniors and more people returning to school for advanced degrees will add to the aid demand, says Patricia Nash Christel, a spokeswoman for student loan giant Sallie Mae.

The first step to getting aid is filling out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid at fafsa.ed.gov. It not only will determine your federal aid, but states and colleges also use the FAFSA to award their money.

The earliest you can submit a FAFSA is Jan. 1. States and schools set their own deadlines for when the FAFSA must be submitted.

Schools often set priority deadlines so that applications submitted by that date will be the first batch that aid officers look at when making their awards. Goucher's deadline, for instance, was Feb. 1. The Towson, Md., college typically awards $22,000 to the neediest of students, about half the cost of attending the college for a year. In years past, the college has been able to offer that amount of aid even to students submitting the FAFSA after the college's deadline, says Sharon Hassan, director of financial aid.

But this year, with aid applications more than double those of a year ago, Goucher might be forced to be less generous with latecomers, Hassan says.

Deadlines can differ widely, so check your school's Web site.

Parents often want to file their tax returns before filling out the FAFSA. While having an up-to-date tax return makes filling out the application easier, it's better to get the application in by the deadline using last year's tax return and then correcting the information later, says Christel.

Be aware, too, that a school might have more than one deadline, warns Kalman Chany, author of "Paying for College Without Going Broke." Besides the FAFSA, many schools are creating their own aid forms or requiring families to submit additional documents to make sure the aid is going to students in need, he says.

What if you blow all the deadlines? You can still qualify for federal Stafford student loans by submitting the FAFSA any time during the academic year.

Eileen Ambrose is a personal finance columnist at the Baltimore Sun. Send her e-mail at eileen.ambrose@baltsun.com. She cannot give individual advice.

Stanford tops Harvard as college donations fall most since '69

By JANET FRANKSTON LORIN
(C) 2010, BLOOMBERG NEWS

Donations to U.S. colleges and universities fell by 12 percent, the most in at least four decades, as a result of the recession, the Council for Aid to Education said.

Contributions totaled $27.9 billion in the year ended June 30, down from $31.6 billion the year before, according to the report released Wednesday. The survey used data from 1,027 colleges.

The nationwide drop in donation revenue, the largest since at least 1969, hurt colleges already suffering from investment losses and pressure to moderate tuition increases, said Ann Kaplan, the survey director. Companies, foundations and alumni had less capacity to give, she said. With the economy and equities doing better this year, colleges now may see a recovery in donations, Kaplan said.

"If the relationship between the stock market and gifts continues to follow historical trends, then 2010 should be a better year and giving should start to rebound," said Kaplan, whose employer is a nonprofit organization based in New York.

Stanford topped Harvard in fundraising for the fourth year in a row. Stanford's donations declined 19 percent to $640.1 million, while Harvard's fell 7.5 percent to $601.6 million, according to the survey. Stanford raised the most of any university and Harvard was No. 2 in all four years.

Cornell posted the biggest fundraising gains in percentage terms among the 20 schools that raised the most money. Contributions to Cornell, in Ithaca, New York, rose 9.1 percent to $446.8 million, according to the survey. The money included a $170 million gift from Sanford Weill, the former chief executive officer of Citigroup, and his wife, Joan.

Donations to Yale declined the most, falling 26 percent to $358.2 million, according to the survey.

Gifts to the UCLA dropped 23 percent to $351.7 million. Duke raised $301.7 million, down 22 percent, the council reported.

Stanford stayed on top of the list because of the relationships it has built with donors, said Martin Shell, vice president for university development at Stanford.

"The continued strong support from our alumni, parents and friends is the direct result of years of engagement with the university," Shell said. "These long-term relationships transcend temporary economic fluctuations."

Tamara Elliott Rogers, vice president for alumni affairs and development for Harvard, declined to be interviewed.

"The global economic downturn has affected giving, of course," said Tom Conroy, a spokesman for Yale. "The year, however, was still the fourth-highest cash year in Yale's history, which indicates strong and continuing support for the university in spite of a more challenging economic climate."

Life & Style

Publisher halts book about bombing of Hiroshima

NEW YORK (AP)—Publication has been halted for a disputed book about the atomic bombing of Japan in 1945, The Associated Press has learned.

Charles Pellegrino's "The Last Train from Hiroshima" had received strong reviews and had been optioned for a possible film by "Avatar" director James Cameron. But publisher Henry Holt and Company, responding to questions from the AP, said Monday that Pellegrino "was not able to answer" several concerns, including whether two men mentioned in the text actually existed.

"It is with deep regret that Henry Holt and Company announces that we will not print, correct or ship copies of Charles Pellegrino's 'The Last Train from Hiroshima,'" the publisher said in a statement issued to the AP.

Doubts were first raised about the book a week ago after Pellegrino acknowledged that one of his interview subjects had falsely claimed to be on one of the planes accompanying the Enola Gay, from which an atom bomb was dropped by the United States on Hiroshima in 1945. Holt had initially promised to send a corrected edition.

But further doubts about the book emerged. The publisher was unable to determine the existence of a Father Mattias (the first name is not given) who supposedly lived in Hiroshima at the time of the bombing, and John MacQuitty, identified as a Jesuit scholar presiding over Mattias' funeral

AP

In this Feb. 26, 2007 file photo, author Charles Pellegrino is shown during a news conference in New York.

"I read a number of books on this period of time and none of them mentioned Mattias or MacQuitty. I knew there was no way those people could have been omitted if they were real," said history professor Barton Bernstein of Stanford University.

Pellegrino's own background was also questioned. He sometimes refers to himself as Dr. Pellegrino, and his Web site, http://www.charlespellegrino.com, lists him as receiving a Ph.D. in 1982 from Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand. But in response to a query from the AP, the school said it had no proof that Pellegrino had such a degree.

"It is easy to understand how even the most diligent author could be duped by a source, but we also understand that opens that book to very detailed scrutiny," according to the statement from Holt.

"The author of any work of nonfiction must stand behind its content. We must rely on our authors to answer questions that may arise as to the accuracy of their work and reliability of their sources. Unfortunately, Mr. Pellegrino was not able to answer the additional questions that have arisen about his book to our satisfaction."

E-mail and phone messages left with Pellegrino were not immediately answered. Cameron's office had no immediate comment.

Holt publicist Nicole Dewey said 18,000 copies of the book, published in January, were in print. The publisher "will issue full credit to wholesalers and retailers who wish to return the book. Consumers who seek a refund should return to the retailer from whom they purchased the book," Monday's statement said.

As of Monday afternoon, "Last Train" was ranked at 244 on the Amazon.com best-seller list. According to Nielsen BookScan, which tracks around 75 percent of industry sales, the book has sold 7,000 copies.

The book's fate not only means the likely demise of the film deal with Cameron, who provided a blurb for "Last Train," but complicates the long history of collaboration between the director and Pellegrino, who served as an adviser for "Avatar," the box-office champ that has been nominated for nine Academy Awards.

Hollywood film tackles Taiwan's martial law era

HONG KONG (AP)—When China and Taiwan split in 1949, the mainland's communist rulers were demonized by the West and their defeated opponents on the island touted as guardians of freedom. The Nationalists were anything but.

Chiang Kai-shek ruled the leaf-shaped territory with a heavy hand. On the pretext of containing communism, he jailed and tortured activists, censored newspapers and books and restricted the use of the local Taiwanese dialect.

Now a Taiwanese-American filmmaker is using Hollywood storytelling to bring this dark period of the island's history to a broader audience.

"Formosa Betrayed," released in the U.S. over the weekend, is partly based on actual events. It follows an FBI agent who travels to the island to help investigate the killing of a Taiwanese economics professor outside Chicago. The lead role is played by James Van Der Beek, an American actor best known for playing the title character in the hit teen TV drama "Dawson's Creek."

The producer and writer is Will Tiao, a former U.S. congressional aide and trade official who moved into acting. He said he was inspired by his own family history: His father, a professor at Kansas State University, was blacklisted and spied on by fellow Taiwanese studying in the U.S. who were hired by the Taiwanese government to monitor the politics of their peers.

In "Formosa Betrayed"—Portuguese seafarers dubbed Taiwan "Ilha Formosa," or "Beautiful Isle" when they passed the island in 1542—Tiao and director Adam Kane offer a stark look at authoritarian Nationalist rule in the 1980s. Tiao has a supporting role as a Taiwanese activist who is tortured by blowtorch during an interrogation and whose wife and young daughter are killed.

Military police in khaki uniforms and white helmets are everywhere. They drop by a restaurant and arrest a customer, seemingly at random, after labeling him a communist spy. They fire into a peaceful protest organized by anti-government activists.

The main plot is the murder of the dissident Taiwanese economics professor on U.S. soil—a story reminiscent of actual events.

In 1984, two Taiwanese gangsters acting on the orders of a military intelligence official gunned down Taiwanese-American journalist Henry Liu in the garage of his suburban San Francisco home after he published a critical biography of Chiang's son, Chiang Ching-kuo.

In Celebration of Her New Life

JUANITA SABLAN MENDIOLA FLEMING

(Juanitan Damoa)

Born: May 06, 1931 • Died: March 01, 2010, at the age of 78

In her new life, she now joins her:

Husband:	George Flores Fleming
Daughter:	Linda Rose M. Fleming
Son:	Edward M. Fleming
Grandchildren:	Charles Henry Cruz Fleming
	Maria Fleming Villagomez
Great-Grandchildren:	Angelina F. Nogis
Father:	Joaquin Mendiola Mendiola (Joaquin Damoa)
Mother:	Dolores Sablan Mendiola
Father In-Law:	Henry Gordon Fleming
Mother In-Law:	Consolacion Flores Fleming
Sisters & Brothers in-law:	Rita S. Mendiola
	Maria S. & Ramon Cabrera
	Theodora M. & Ramon Bermudes
Brothers:	Juan S. Mendiola
	Esteban S. Mendiola
Brothers in-law:	Jesus Arriola
	Froilan Camacho / Miguel Magofna
Brothers in-law & Sisters in-law:	Thomas & Ursula U. Fleming
	Albert & Consolacion A. Fleming
	Henry & Josepha B. Fleming
	Rodney Bodallo
Daughter In-Law:	Herminia Cruz Fleming

Reared Children:	Rosemary C. Kendall
	Josepha A. Weilbacher
Sisters:	Estefania M. Arriola (Nia)
	Anunsacion Camacho Magofna (Asako)
Brothers & Sisters in-law:	Alfred & Rosalia Fleming (Tinian)
	Rudy Flores Fleming (Tinian)
Sisters & Brothers in-law:	Daisy Fleming Manglona (Tinian)
	Lydia & Eugene Black (Missouri)
	Leonora F. Bordallo (Guam)
	Martha M. Mendiola
	Elizabeth Mendiola
Caretakers:	Veronica Raymundo & Adela Campus

Survived by:

Children:

Evelyn & Phillip David *(Linda & Gonzalo, Frederick, George & Wilma, Eric & Tania, Juanette & Jess)*
Donald & Susan DLG. Fleming *(Tina, Vanessa, Donald, George)*
Rhonda & Felix Nogis *(Jaimie & JayJay, Apollonia & Gerald, Natashia & Peter, Janine ,Nathan)*
†Edward Fleming *(James & Carol, Bethany, Sean, Kina,Bernadette)*
Lawrence & Mary Jane Dl. Fleming *(Audy John & April, Telma & Jack, Velma, Wilma & Champ, Dorsha & Carlos, Laurie Jane, Renita, Lawrence Jr., Henry)*
George Jr. & Florence R. Fleming *(Amanda & Mike, George III & Keolani, Ian)*
Cynthia & Mark Zachares *(Sarah & Cassandra)*
William & Evelyn C. Fleming *(Clay, Eileen, Connie, William Jr., Toby)*
Vivian Fleming & Jesse Manibusan *(Gloria Gean)*
Alicia Fleming *(Renaesha & Jonathan, Jose, Rita, Juanita)*
Tania & Peter John Mesa *(Elijah, Noah, Isaiah)*

She will also be missed and remembered in the hearts of her 41 great grand children, god-children, numerous cousins, nieces and nephews.

Daily mass is being offered at 6:00 a.m. and nightly rosary is being said at 7:00 p.m. at the Mount Carmel Cathedral. On Saturday, March 06, 2010, her remains will arrive at the Mt. Carmel Cathedral at 10:00am. Mass for Christian Burial will be celebrated at 3:00 pm. Interment services will follow immediately after at the Chalan Kanoa Cemetery.

Thank you and Si Yu'us Ma'ase,

THE FAMILY

Hello again to Jay Leno, back as 'Tonight' host

NEW YORK (AP)—Jay Leno had been absent from the nation's TV screens for less than a month, but he returned Monday night with renewed purpose.

"It's good to be home," he told his "Tonight Show" audience as he began his monologue, a transcript of which was provided by NBC before airtime. "I'm Jay Leno, your host. At least, for a while."

Leno is reclaiming his old job at NBC's "Tonight Show" just nine months after giving it up to Conan O'Brien, and only 19 days after NBC pulled the plug on Leno's own prime-time misadventure.

"We were off for the last couple of weeks," Leno cracked in his monologue. "Kind of like the Russians at the Olympics. What happened to them?"

Leno noted that one of his guests is an American gold medalist, skier Lindsey Vonn.

"Did you see her?" Leno marveled. "When it comes to going downhill, nobody is faster. OK, except NBC."

As he zinged his own network, along with former vice president Dick Cheney, Toyota and Tiger Woods, Leno signaled the resumption of the late-night war between him and his longtime CBS foe David Letterman, who had gained the ratings upper hand during O'Brien's brief, unhappy stay as "Tonight Show" host.

NBC is praying that Leno will settle comfortably back into his "Tonight Show" desk chair, where he ruled late night (and beat Letterman) for much of 17 years.

AP

A fan shows his ticket for the "Tonight Show," as he lines up outside the NBC Studios on Monday, March 1, 2010, in Burbank, Calif.

But already handicappers were weighing whether Leno can recapture his momentum after leaving last May in favor of O'Brien, then stumbling badly in his weeknight prime-time hour, yanked last month by NBC.

So were viewers.

Dorothy Elayan, 50, of Louisville, Ky., and her daughter, Jena, 19, who were visiting Southern California, were waiting to enter the NBC studio in Burbank for Monday's taping. Both said they preferred Leno over O'Brien.

"I didn't like Conan. I didn't like his sense of humor," Jena Elayan said. "I watched `The Tonight Show' when it was Jay Leno."

Her mother said she had remained a fan of Leno in prime time. "I would like him earlier because I go to bed earlier. I was that one little person still watching," she said, referring to his disappointing prime-time ratings.

Also in line was Natalie Hanks, 19, of San Clemente, Calif., who said she found O'Brien funnier than Leno but added, "I wish there was room for both."

She said Leno might face resistance from O'Brien's fans.

"I've seen a lot of people on Facebook rallying around Conan. I think younger people" will boycott "Tonight" with Leno, Hanks said.

Meanwhile, rumors have abounded concerning the next step for O'Brien, widely seen as victimized by Leno and by NBC's ham-handed shake up that led to his departure. The most popular theory places him on the Fox network, butting heads nightly with Letterman and Leno.

FIRST YEAR DEATH ANNIVERSARY

In Loving Memory of

†Verena Marie Tudela Cabrera

October 26, 1990 – March 11, 2009

We, the family, humbly invite all our relatives and friends to join us in prayers as we commemorate the passing of our dearly beloved "Verena Marie" unto eternal life.

Mass of intentions is being offered each morning at Kristo Rai Church at 6:00 a.m. beginning March 03 through March 11, 2010. Nightly rosary is being prayed at 7:30 p.m. in Capitol Hill at Grandma ESCO's residence.

On the final day, rosary will be prayed at 6:30 p.m. followed by an appreciation dinner.

Please join us in prayers.

Joaquin Mitch I. Pangelinan/Carmen T. Cabrera
Children and Family

IN LOVING MEMORY

Tito Songao Hocog

JULY 5, 1920 - FEBRUARY 24, 2010

OF ROTA, PASSED AWAY PEACEFULLY AT ROTA HEALTH CENTER SURROUNDED BY HIS FAMILY AT THE AGE OF 89.
HE IS REMEMBERED FOR HIS STEADFAST FAITH, LOVE OF FAMILY, AND HUMBLE PRESENCE.

AS WAS HIS CUSTOM TO BEGIN HIS DAY WITH PRAYER, HIS BODY WILL BE TRANSFERRED FROM THE ROTA HEALTH CENTER MORGUE ON SATURDAY, MARCH 6 AT 5 A.M., TO ARRIVE AT SAN ISIDRO CHURCH, SINAPALO 1, ROTA FOR THE RECITATION OF THE HOLY ROSARY AT 5:30 A.M., FOLLOWED IMMEDIATELY BY THE MASS OF CHRISTIAN BURIAL. INTERMENT TO FOLLOW AT THE SAN JOSE CEMETERY, SONGSONG, ROTA.

AS HE RESTS, HE NOW JOINS HIS:

WIFE:	ROSARIO
CHILDREN:	JUANITA, CARLOS, DIMAS, LUCIA, LORENZO
SON-IN-LAW:	VICENTE S. ATALIG
GRANDCHILD:	EUSEBIO A. HOCOG JR.
PARENTS:	EUGENIO PANGELINAN & MARIA SONGAO HOCOG
PARENTS-IN-LAW:	ELIAS MASGA & ANA HOCOG ATALIG
SISTERS AND SPOUSE:	CONSOLACION & ROMANO MARATITA
	VICENTA & JOSE SAN NICOLAS
BROTHERS-/ SISTERS-IN-LAW & SPOUSE:	VICENTE MANGLONA
	FRANCISCA A. & JOSE BORJA
	ISAIAS ATALIG
	FRUCTOSO & CARMEN ATALIG
	RAFAEL & MARIA ATALIG
	EMELIANA ATALIG
	CONSOLACION A. & BENIGNO SABLAN

HE WILL BE DEARLY MISSED & LOVINGLY REMEBERED BY HIS:

CHILDREN & THEIR FAMILIES:	SALOMAE H. AND VINCENT CALVO
	EUSEBIO "BILL" AND ROSITA HOCOG
	TITA HOCOG
	CARMEN H. ATALIG
	PIA HOCOG (WIDOW OF DIMAS)
	JOCELYN HOCOG (WIDOW OF LORENZO)
SIBLINGS & THEIR FAMILIES:	PRUDENCIO & ANA HOCOG
	FLORENCIA H. MANGLONA
SISTER-IN-LAW & FAMILY:	ROSA M. ATALIG

MASS IS OFFERED AT 7 P.M. ON MONDAY THRU SATURDAY AND 5 A.M. ON SUNDAY AT SAN ISIDRO CHURCH, SINAPALO 1, ROTA.

New 'Dancing With the Stars' cast revealed

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A "Baywatch" babe, an astronaut and a gold medal figure skater are among those who will compete on the spring season of "Dancing With the Stars."

Host Tom Bergeron and former finalist Melissa Rycroft revealed the cast Monday. It includes Pamela Anderson, astronaut Buzz Aldrin and reality stars Kate Gosselin and Jake Pavelka.

Also competing for the mirrorball trophy will be: gold medal figure skater Evan Lysacek, sportscaster Erin Andrews, singer Nicole Scherzinger, football star Chad Ochocinco and actors Shannen Doherty, Aiden Turner and Niecy Nash.

"It's definitely one of our strongest cast lineups ever," said executive producer Conrad Green. "Pound for pound, it should be really fascinating watching." "Dancing With the Stars" returns on March 22.

Green said the recipe for a great cast is "part hope, part luck, part skill, part research." The show's staff has been courting many of the newly announced contestants for months, he said.

The new dancers will train for three weeks before making their primetime premiere.

Green said his staff is enforcing limits on training time to avoid the spate of injuries that plagued last year's cast and caused two stars to drop out before the competition began.

O.J. Simpson's 'acquittal suit' to be donated

SANTA MONICA, Calif. (AP)—With O.J. Simpson giving his agreement from prison, a judge approved a plan Monday to donate the suit the former NFL star was wearing when he was acquitted of murder to the Smithsonian Institution.

The deal ends a 13-year legal battle between Simpson's former sports agent Mike Gilbert and Fred Goldman, the father of the man Simpson was accused of killing in 1994.

AP

In this Oct. 3, 1995 file photo, O.J. Simpson, center, reacts as he is found not guilty of murdering his ex-wife Nicole Brown and her friend Ron Goldman, as members of his defense team, F. Lee Bailey, left, and Johnnie Cochran Jr., right, look on, in court in Los Angeles.

Both men claimed the right to the suit, shirt and tie Simpson was wearing Oct. 3, 1995, when he was acquitted of killing ex-wife Nicole Brown Simpson and her friend Ronald Goldman after a trial that riveted the nation.

Gilbert, who has had the clothes in his possession, came up with the idea of a donation.

"It's part of American history," Gilbert said outside court. "People should be able to see it and reflect on what went so wrong for someone who had everything."

Simpson, 62, who is serving a minimum nine-year prison sentence in Nevada on an unrelated case, told the judge and lawyers by phone that he approved of donating the suit "as long as no one made a profit from it," his attorney Ronald P. Slates said.

"I said to OJ, 'Whether you like it or not, you're an important part of American legal history, ' " Slates said.

Fred Goldman has been trying for years to seize Simpson's assets to satisfy a $33.5 million civil judgment for the wrongful death of his son and ex-wife. Simpson maintains he did not commit the murders and therefore owes Goldman nothing.

The Smithsonian has not yet been contacted to see if the museum wants the Simpson suit. If it is rejected, it will be offered to another museum or institution of higher learning, according to the agreement approved by Superior Court Judge Joseph Biderman.

The donation will be made in the name of Nicole Brown Simpson and Ronald Goldman.

Goldman's attorney, David Cook, said Simpson did not have many assets left to be seized, but he would continue the quest.

"It's on my radar screen but it's becoming a very small blip," Cook said. "But you never know what's going to fall from the sky."

Simpson was convicted of robbery and kidnapping in Las Vegas last October after a botched heist to retrieve his memorabilia he said was stolen by dealers.

TLC declines to renew Miss America TV contract

LAS VEGAS (AP)—Miss America's three year run on TLC is over after the cable network chose not to renew its television contract with the beauty pageant.

TLC declined on Monday to say why it was cutting ties with the 89-year-old competition after the pageant's broadcast attracted 4.5 million viewers in January—the best showing ever for the pageant on cable.

Sam Haskell, chairman of the Miss America Organization, told The Associated Press that TLC executives indicated one week after the Jan. 30 pageant that they did not want to pick up a three-year option that was part of their previous deal.

Instead, Haskell said TLC wanted a new two-year deal for less money, which he was unwilling to do.

"They're not dumping Miss America," Haskell said. "They wanted Miss America—they just didn't want to pay the same numbers for it that they'd been paying."

Haskell said four networks, ranging from broadcast to cable channels, have expressed strong interest in airing the pageant and are willing to pay what the TLC option would have paid or higher.

"I'm a big boy, I've got broad shoulders—I'll find us another network," Haskell said. "I look at this as an opportunity. It doesn't depress me in the least. We have a great franchise, we have a great audience, we have a great organization."

The television audience for this year's pageant was 1 million viewers more than those for the 2009 pageant, but far below the 33 million who watched the pageant on broadcast TV in 1988.

The 2010 pageant—won by Miss Virginia Caressa Cameron—was No. 1 on cable the night it aired, excluding movies. It was held at the Planet Hollywood Resort & Casino on the Las Vegas Strip.

The pageant previously aired on Country Music Television and was last seen on network TV on ABC, which dropped the pageant after record-low ratings for the 2004 pageant.

The pageant, which celebrates its 90th year next year, was founded in Atlantic City, N.J., in 1921 as a bathing beauty revue.

Drug tests pending in Marie Osmond son's LA death

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Toxicology tests will determine whether drugs or alcohol played a role in the death of Marie Osmond's 18-year-old son, who police said jumped to his death from a downtown apartment building, a coroner's official said Monday.

Michael Blosil left a suicide note before he leaped from the eighth floor of the building on Friday night, said police Lt. Paul Vernon.

Vernon said he did not have details of the note.

"It was fairly obvious this appeared to be a suicide, based upon witness statements," he said.

Coroner's officials were investigating the case as a suicide, but an autopsy conducted Sunday did not officially determine the cause of death pending the results of toxicology tests, which could take up to two months, said Los Angeles County Assistant Chief Coroner Ed Winter.

"He fell to his death from a balcony, eight stories," Winter said, but officials "just want to make sure that he wasn't drunk or something and walked out of his balcony and fell."

"Is it an accident or is it a suicide?" Winter asked. "We just want to make sure that there's nothing that we missed."

Blosil was a first-year student of apparel manufacturing at the Fashion Institute of Design & Merchandising, said college spokeswoman Shirley Wilson. A floral memorial was placed in the school's rotunda in his honor.

Blosil and other students lived at the Metropolitan apartments on Flower Street, Wilson said.

AP

Entertainer Marie Osmond speaks at a North Little Rock, Ark., Sam's Club store in this April 27, 2005 file photo.

The complex, known as "The Met," has a 24-hour doorman and a balcony for every apartment, along with a spa, pool and other luxuries.

Details of Blosil's death were not immediately released, but Vernon said there was no indication that he had been attending a party or other event where he might have been drinking.

There have been conflicting reports about whether Blosil may have struggled with depression. Vernon said he did not have any information.

Osmond revealed in 2007 that her son had entered rehab but didn't say specifically what he was being treated for.

"He's dealing with a lot of issues," she told CNN's Larry King at the time. "I don't feel comfortable talking for him. I think he'll have to deal with that."

Osmond did say one of the issues troubling him was the fact that he was adopted.

"He is the most amazing kid ...," she added before beginning to cry.

Osmond herself has struggled with depression over the years, as she disclosed in her 2001 book, "Behind the Smile: My Journey Out of Postpartum Depression."

Blosil was one of Osmond's five adopted children. She also has three other children from two marriages. Osmond divorced Brian Blosil in 2007 after two decades of marriage. She and her first husband, Stephen Craig, divorced in 1985.

In a statement after his death, Osmond said she and her family were in shock. Her publicist declined to provide any additional comment from Osmond on Monday.

Osmond earned fame at age 13 with the hit song "Paper Roses," and starred with her brother, Donny, on television's "Donny and Marie Show" during the 1970s.

The siblings perform a musical variety show regularly at the Flamingo Las Vegas Hotel and Casino. The hotel said the shows were canceled over the weekend and performances would resume on March 9.

'Shutter Island' lands at No. 1 again with $22.7M

LOS ANGELES (AP)—"Shutter Island" weathered challenges from newcomers to remain the No. 1 movie for a second-straight weekend with $22.7 million.

The top 20 movies at U.S. and Canadian theaters Friday through Sunday, followed by distribution studio, gross, number of theater locations, average receipts per location, total gross and number of weeks in release, as compiled Monday by Hollywood.com are:

1. ***"Shutter Island,"*** Paramount, $22,665,205, 3,003 locations, $7,548 average, $75,541,271, two weeks.

2. ***"Cop Out,"*** Warner Bros., $18,211,126, 3,150 locations, $5,781 average, $18,211,126, one week.

3. ***"The Crazies,"*** Overture, $16,067,552, 2,477 locations, $6,487 average, $16,067,552, one week.

4. ***"Avatar,"*** Fox, $13,655,274, 2,456 locations, $5,560 average, $706,560,068, 11 weeks.

5. ***"Percy Jackson & the Olympians: The Lightning Thief,"*** Fox, $9,583,421, 3,302 locations, $2,902 average, $70,998,280, three weeks.

6. ***"Valentine's Day,"*** Warner Bros., $9,063,036, 3,578 locations, $2,533 average, $99,916,240, three weeks.

7. ***"Dear John,"*** Sony Screen Gems, $4,808,498, 3,006 locations, $1,600 average, $72,432,096, four weeks.

8. ***"The Wolfman,"*** Universal, $4,259,865, 3,043 locations, $1,400 average, $57,380,125, three weeks.

9. ***"The Tooth Fairy,"*** Fox, $3,425,333, 2,249 locations, $1,523 average, $53,841,454, six weeks.

10. ***"Crazy Heart,"*** Fox Searchlight, $2,462,384, 1,148 locations, $2,145 average, $25,009,496, 11 weeks.

11. ***"The Blind Side,"*** Warner Bros., $1,238,477, 945 locations, $1,311 average, $248,755,981, 15 weeks.

12. ***"The Book of Eli,"*** Warner Bros., $1,112,493, 975 locations, $1,141 average, $92,506,955, seven weeks.

13. ***"From Paris With Love,"*** Lionsgate, $1,055,240, 1,278 locations, $826 average, $23,324,666, four weeks.

14. ***"Edge of Darkness,"*** Warner Bros., $1,017,209, 1,255 locations, $811 average, $42,170,286, five weeks.

15. ***"When in Rome,"*** Disney, $1,003,452, 930 locations, $1,079 average, $30,861,655, five weeks.

16. ***"The Last Station,"*** Sony Pictures Classics, $970,048, 352 locations, $2,756 average, $3,340,876, seven weeks.

17. ***"Up in the Air,"*** Paramount, $802,081, 586 locations, $1,369 average, $82,078,918, 13 weeks.

18. ***"The Ghost Writer,"*** Summit, $789,064, 43 locations, $18,350 average, $1,048,233, two weeks.

19. ***"Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Squeakquel,"*** Fox, $771,315, 707 locations, $1,091 average, $216,556,931, 10 weeks.

20. "Sherlock Holmes," Warner Bros., $608,032, 462 locations, $1,316 average, $206,419,248, 10 weeks.

Hyundai skips Jeff Bridges voiceovers for Oscars

NEW YORK (AP)—Having Jeff Bridges do a voiceover during the Oscars?

The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences does not abide.

Hyundai has pulled the actor's voice from its ads airing during Sunday night's broadcast because of a rule limiting the use of nominees in ads during the show.

Bridges is nominated for his role in "Crazy Heart."

He has voiced ads for the Korean automaker since 2007, and it is the only auto company advertising during the awards show. He'll be replaced by seven other stars, including Catherine Keener, Kim Basinger and David Duchovny in seven ads airing during the show and one beforehand.

Hyundai says it tried new voiceovers for two weeks after deciding it was too difficult to make the Bridges ads fit the rules.

AP

In this book cover image released by Scribner, the cover of Laura Bush's memoir "Spoken from the Heart," is shown. The book will be released on May 4, 2010.

Memoir by Laura Bush is due out in early May

NEW YORK (AP)—Former first lady Laura Bush's memoir is coming out in early May.

"Spoken From the Heart" is scheduled for release May 4 from Scribner, an imprint of Simon & Schuster. It released a cover image Monday showing a smiling close-up with her light brown hair brushed to the side.

A memoir by her husband, former President George W. Bush, is due in the fall.

Jake chooses Vienna on 'The Bachelor' finale

NEW YORK (AP)—Jake Pavelka has chosen Vienna Giraldi on the ABC reality television show "The Bachelor."

Pavelka revealed his decision on the show's 14th season finale Monday night. Going into the episode, he had winnowed 25 contestants to two women: Giraldi and Tenley Molzahn.

Pavelka is a 32-year-old commercial flight instructor. He maintained he was in love with both women, a feeling they said they reciprocated. But he got down on one knee to propose to Giraldi, who accepted.

The success rate of "The Bachelor" has been poor, romantically speaking. Only four of the 13 other couples are still together.

Last week's episode of "The Bachelor" was watched by 11.5 million viewers.

In this undated publicity image released by ABC, bachelor Jake Pavelka,is shown during the filming of the romance reality series, "The Bachelor".

AP

ENTERTAINMENT TIDBITS

New Shrek film to open Tribeca Film Festival

NEW YORK (AP)— The Tribeca Film Festival will open with the world premiere of "Shrek Forever After" on April 21. The annual New York film festival, co-created by Robert De Niro, announced the selection Monday. "Shrek Forever After" is the fourth film in DreamWorks Animation's "Shrek" series. It stars Mike Myers, Eddie Murphy, Cameron Diaz and Antonio Banderas. The film is being advertised as the "final chapter" in the "Shrek" series. It's also the first "Shrek" released in 3-D. The ninth annual Tribeca Film Festival runs through May 2. The rest of its slate will be announced in the coming weeks.

Funds sought for ill 'Stand and Deliver' teacher

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Cast members of the 1988 movie "Stand and Deliver" are appealing for donations to help the movie's real-life subject, an East Los Angeles high school teacher, pay his medical bills. Jaime Escalante is battling cancer, and his family has run out of money to pay for his treatments. The Bolivian-born Escalante is 79 years old. Actress Vanessa Marquez, who appeared in the film, told Fox 11 news in an interview Monday that $5,000 has been raised so far, but $25,000 more is needed. "Stand and Deliver" dramatized the story of how Garfield High School math teacher Escalante turned a group of no-hoper students into calculus champs. Actor Edward James Olmos played the role of Escalante in the film.

Theron, Streisand, Downey join Oscar lineup

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Academy Awards winners Charlize Theron, Barbra Streisand and Kathy Bates have joined the lineup as presenters for the Oscars. Also announced Monday as Oscar presenters are past nominees Robert Downey Jr., Queen Latifah and "Pulp Fiction" co-stars Samuel L. Jackson and John Travolta. The acting veterans are joining younger stars previously announced as presenters, including Miley Cyrus, Zac Efron and "Twilight" co-stars Kristen Stewart and Taylor Lautner. The 82nd Oscar show airs live Sunday on ABC.

No FBI file on Salinger

NEW YORK (AP)—The life of J.D. Salinger was an obsession for many, but not, apparently, for the FBI. In a letter dated Feb. 25, the bureau said it did not open an investigate file on the author of "The Catcher of the Rye," who died in January at age 91. The search was in response to a request made by The Associated Press under the Freedom of Information Act. The letter was received Monday. Although "Catcher" was famously scornful of "phonies" in the adult world, Salinger himself was not known for being politically active. A resident of rural New Hampshire, he made few public comments over the past 60 years and published no work after 1965.

TV Land announces new sitcom 'Hot in Cleveland'

NEW YORK (AP)—TV Land says it's hot on "Hot in Cleveland," a sitcom pilot the network is rushing into production for airing this summer. The series, confirmed Monday, will star sitcom veterans Valerie Bertinelli, Jane Leeves and Wendie Malick. The multi-camera comedy revolves around three eccentric best friends from Los Angeles who, by a quirk of fate, set up housekeeping under the same roof as they discover the new world of Cleveland. Initially 10 episodes are planned. As an original scripted comedy, "Hot in Cleveland" is a departure for TV Land, best known for airing vintage comedies and dramas. More recently, the network has added reality programming. Viacom Inc.'s TV Land is also considering a series pickup for a second sitcom pilot starring George Segal.

Chynna Phillips completes treatment for anxiety

NEW YORK (AP)—A representative for Chynna Phillips says the singer has checked out of an undisclosed facility where she was treated for anxiety. Phillips entered the facility last month. Her manager, Lizzie Grubman, says the 42-year-old Phillips successfully completed treatment and left the facility Friday. Grubman says Phillips "happily returned home" to celebrate her daughter Jamieson's 10th birthday with family and friends. Phillips, of the pop group Wilson Phillips, is married to actor William Baldwin. They have three children. She is the half-sister of former child actress Mackenzie Phillips, who claimed in a memoir last year that she had a decade-long sexual relationship with their father, pop star John Phillips of the Mamas and the Papas.

Man tells little white lie about the little blue pill

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: I am a 76-year-old man who is romantically involved with a 65-year-old lady. She knows I take Viagra. I recently had to go out of town for a week. Before I left, she demanded that I give her my bottle of Viagra. She said she would return it as soon as I got back.

What I did not tell my lady friend is that I don't always need Viagra to "perform." Should I remain silent and let her believe that without the little blue pill I'll be forced to remain faithful?

Honesty is the best long-term policy, but is there a limit to just "how" honest one should be?

A VITAL MAN IN ARKANSAS

DEAR VITAL MAN: In this case, keep your own counsel. If you tell your lady friend you don't always "need" Viagra, she may start wondering why you always need it with her and find the implication insulting.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: As a child, it was painfully obvious that my mother favored my brother, "Clint," over me. Everything he did was considered perfect and was bragged about. Because I was a girl, I was expected to step and fetch for him. To this day, my opinions hold no weight against those of my brother. I have always been hurt by this, but I have lived with it.

Clint moved 3,000 miles away years ago. I am the one caring for Mom, although Clint contributes financial assistance. When he and his family came to visit for a week, my daughter asked me why Grandma respects and is prouder of Clint's children—all boys—than of her.

Grandma is proud that one of the boys knows about computers, but my daughter has BUILT computers. Grandma is proud because one of the boys is studying piano. My daughter has played flute for 10 years. Grandma brags about another of the boys' ability at rowing, but never about my daughter's achievements in academics.

How do I keep my daughter from feeling resentful, and what should I tell her?

LESS VALUED IN GREENVILLE, S.C.

DEAR LESS VALUED: Tell your daughter the truth—that your mother always favored your brother, and that this is just more of the same. Tell her that she is a terrific daughter and that YOU are proud of her. And explain that there is no pleasing Grandma, which is why she should keep her distance.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My husband's aunt was gorgeous when she was young. At 90, obviously her appearance has changed. After many illnesses, her looks have faded.

When she shows me pictures of herself in her youth, it's obvious she wants a response, but "you were beautiful" seems cruel, pointing out that she is no longer. To pretend she still is would be disingenuous.

I have been in this situation with other elderly people. What is a complimentary and sincere comment at these times?

REALIST IN NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

DEAR REALIST: Your aunt is reminded of the fact that she's no longer in the full bloom of youth every time she brushes her teeth in front of the mirror. So why not give her the compliment she deserves? Say, "Auntie, you were drop-dead gorgeous! I'm sure you stopped traffic." If you do, I'm willing to bet she has a few stories to tell you about when she did exactly that.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby—Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

HA! I'VE GOT A GREAT WORD AND IT'S ON A "DOUBLE WORD SCORE" BOX!
"ZQFMGB" ISN'T A WORD! IT DOESN'T EVEN HAVE A VOWEL!
IT IS SO A WORD! IT'S A WORM FOUND IN NEW GUINEA! EVERYONE KNOWS THAT!
I'M LOOKING IT UP.
YOU DO, AND I'LL LOOK UP THAT 12-LETTER WORD YOU PLAYED WITH ALL THE Xs AND Js!
© 1990 Universal Press Syndicate
3-3
WHAT'S YOUR SCORE FOR ZQFMGB?
957.

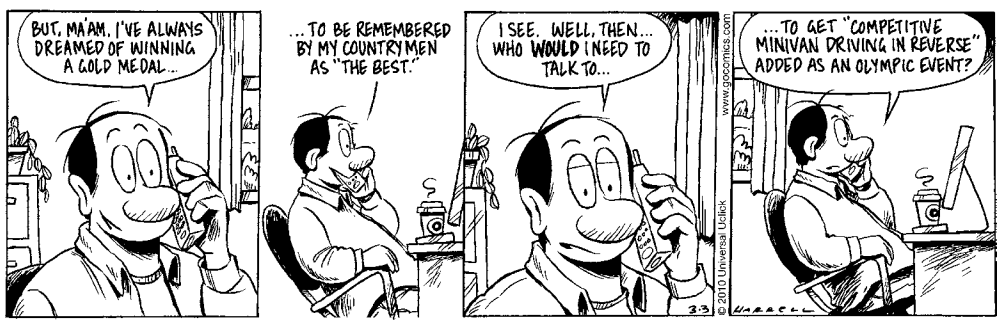
Garfield®

By Jim Davis

JIM DAVIS 3-3
www.garfield.com
© 2010 PAWS, INC. All Rights Reserved.
OH, NO!
SLAP
COMING SOON TO THIS SITE: NATURE
AM I THE ONLY ONE CONCERNED ABOUT THE PLIGHT OF OUR NATION'S MINI MALLS?!
TO THIS SITE: NATURE
Distributed by Universal Uclick

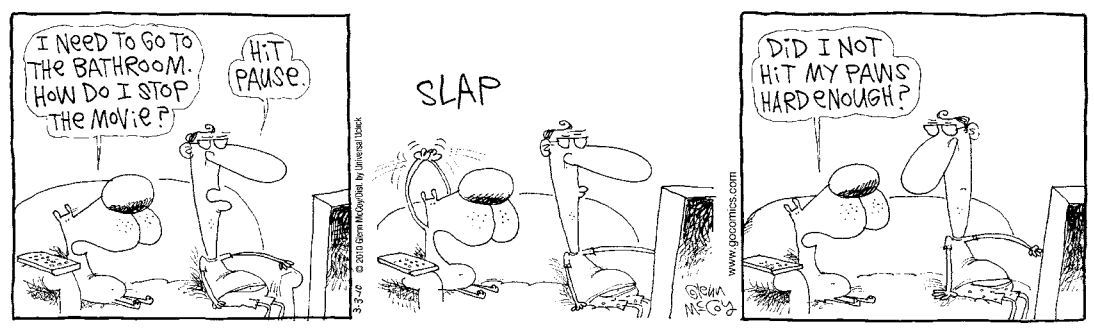
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


BUT, MA'AM, I'VE ALWAYS DREAMED OF WINNING A GOLD MEDAL...
...TO BE REMEMBERED BY MY COUNTRYMEN AS "THE BEST."
I SEE. WELL, THEN... WHO WOULD I NEED TO TALK TO...
...TO GET "COMPETITIVE MINIVAN DRIVING IN REVERSE" ADDED AS AN OLYMPIC EVENT?
© 2010 Universal Uclick
www.gocomics.com
3-3

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


I Need To Go To The BATHROOM. How Do I STOP The Movie?
HIT Pause.
SLAP
DID I NOT HIT MY PAWS HARD ENOUGH?
© 2010 Glenn McCoy/Dist. by Universal Uclick
3-3
www.gocomics.com

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

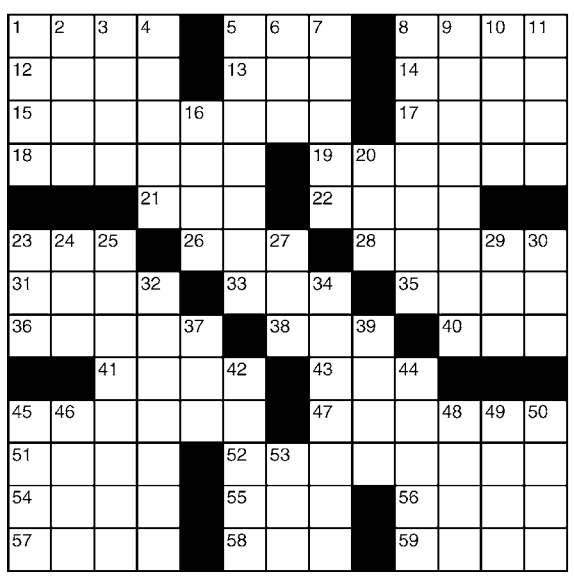
ACROSS
1 Caspian feeder
5 Couric's network
8 Close
12 One's performance
13 Coloration
14 Macadamize
15 Silicon Valley school
17 Scope
18 Find a new owner
19 Blood lines?
21 "Norma —"
22 Soft ball
23 Pump up the volume
26 Underwear with underwire
28 Haley book
31 Fisherman's supply
33 Duchamp contemporary
35 Legal document
36 Tiramisu topper
38 Navigation aid
40 Actress Susan
41 Northern Iraqi
43 Gun lobby org.
45 Imprisoned
47 Black-eyed legume
51 Hoodlum
52 Joan, Michael or Cindy
54 Traditional tales
55 Diving bird
56 Craving
57 Race place, for short
58 Shelter
59 Ponce de —

DOWN
1 Cold War initials
2 Memory method
3 "Woe is me!"
4 Hermit
5 Gastrointestinal illness
6 Prickly seedcase
7 Auto style
8 Who killed Cock Robin?
9 Connecticut city
10 Eye layer
11 4:00 get-togethers
16 "The Biggest Loser" target
20 "— the fields we go"
23 Basic learning
24 Chinese chairman
25 Mary of silents
27 Branch
29 Dead heat
30 Pigs' digs
32 U.S. Open, e.g.
34 Flapjack
37 Exist
39 Ship's front
42 Transfer
44 Terrible
45 Wrinkly citrus
46 Midday
48 Sweat opening
49 Therefore
50 Mideast gulf
53 Regret

Solution time: 21 mins.

C	U	T	E	■	S	A	P	■	T	O	M	E
A	F	A	R	■	A	D	O	■	O	K	A	Y
F	O	U	R	S	T	A	R	■	U	R	G	E
E	S	T	■	C	O	M	■	C	R	A	S	S
■	■	■	S	A	N	■	B	O	G	■	■	■
A	N	T	O	N	■	R	E	Q	U	I	R	E
L	I	E	U	■	F	O	G	■	I	D	E	A
A	L	A	R	M	E	D	■	A	D	O	P	T
■	■	■	D	O	W	■	E	V	E	■	■	■
B	E	B	O	P	■	P	R	E	■	D	U	O
E	C	R	U	■	H	O	U	R	L	O	N	G
S	H	A	G	■	A	R	P	■	A	M	I	R
T	O	S	H	■	Y	E	T	■	P	E	T	E

Yesterday's answer 3-3



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Jessica Biel, 28; Julie Bowen, 40; Jackie Joyner-Kersee, 48; Herschel Walker, 48

Happy Birthday: Partnerships will be important this year. Your ability to speak from the heart will put you in a key position. This is a year of great opportunity if you follow though. Changes at home will affect the way you proceed in your professional life. A move or change of scenery will help you establish your future achievements. Your numbers are 3, 10, 12, 22, 28, 37, 42

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Dig deep and find out all you can about anyone with whom you want to partner. The amount of time and effort you put in will be recognized and rewarded. Take action instead of waiting for someone else. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Offer a helping hand. An unusual approach to the way you do things will generate interest in you, personally and professionally. Love is in the stars but don't get involved with someone who is not available. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Getting involved in a group or with an organization will not be in your best interest and can lead to a costly venture. Put your efforts into your own creative ideas. Meddling will be a waste of value time. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): A change of scenery will do you good. A romantic adventure will open your mind and heart to new possibilities. Make sure you have taken care of unfinished business that you have with someone else. ✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Use your imagination coupled with your intuition when dealing with investments, renovations or any financial changes. Expect someone to put pressure on you regarding a change at work. Travel if it will help you close a deal. ✪✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Love is on the rise and a unique situation can bring about sudden changes to your lifestyle or living arrangements. Take another look at an old idea and you will figure out a way to make it successful. Entertain at home. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Take one of your talents to the next level. Present what you have to offer with determination and confidence. An opportunity to make a difference to someone in need will strengthen your reputation and help you gain recognition. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Do not take no for an answer and you will discover how easy it is to get others to do things for you. Love is in the stars and an interesting conversation will enable you to pose a question you have been reluctant to ask in the past. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Be careful what you say and do. If you have been holding back or refusing to be upfront and honest, someone will force you to confess, leaving you in a vulnerable position. Don't make promises you don't plan to keep. ✪✪✪✪

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Keep life simple. Don't travel or attend events

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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that may pose a threat to your well-being. Emotional upset can be expected. Before responding to the information you receive, take time to contemplate. ✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): There is money to be made if you expand an idea you have, turning it into a service that is in demand. Take care of legal and financial matters so that nothing stands in your way. Preparation will be the key to your success. ✪✪✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): You can manipulate any situation you face with your charm and ability to make everyone feel important. A love relationship will be under the spotlight and can lead to a new and very different lifestyle. Confidence and drive will help you get your way. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are emotional, sensitive and insightful. You look for the unusual, you think big and you enjoy taking others by surprise.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

		5	3	9	7	4		
	7						3	
6								
5								
9				1	4	8	6	5
2								3
1								9
	4						7	
		2	5	4	9	3		

Difficulty Level ★★★ 3/03

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Saturday's SUDOKU Answer

1	8	5	4	3	9	7	2	6
4	6	9	7	5	2	3	8	1
2	3	7	8	1	6	5	9	4
9	4	2	6	8	7	1	5	3
6	1	3	9	2	5	4	7	8
5	7	8	1	4	3	9	6	2
7	2	1	5	6	4	8	3	9
3	9	4	2	7	8	6	1	5
8	5	6	3	9	1	2	4	7

Difficulty Level ★★ 3/02

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

AERIAL FIREFIGHTING **Solution: 8 letters**

S	G	Y	K	A	M	P	H	I	B	I	O	U	S	W
N	E	N	A	L	P	A	E	(S)	(R)	(A)	(M)	B	R	E
O	B	H	I	L	D	D	A	S	H	S	I	E	E	A
R	A	E	E	W	C	L	A	N	C	E	K	E	B	T
D	R	L	R	M	D	F	E	O	M	N	C	C	M	H
A	O	I	I	B	E	E	O	I	A	I	A	H	O	E
U	N	C	F	T	O	P	X	T	F	R	T	C	B	R
Q	I	O	Y	L	E	E	R	I	E	A	T	R	R	E
S	T	P	I	R	O	I	I	D	F	M	A	A	E	T
E	R	T	S	T	A	A	O	N	I	R	R	F	T	A
N	A	E	E	E	C	X	T	O	G	N	I	T	A	R
I	M	R	G	K	A	A	K	C	A	B	A	S	W	D
G	T	S	O	C	C	T	E	L	Z	Z	O	N	K	A
N	F	A	T	I	G	U	E	R	U	S	S	I	A	N
E	C	A	F	R	U	S	B	A	M	B	I	N	O	T

© 2010 Universal Uclick www.wonderword.com 3/3

Air Attack, Air Tanker, Amphibious, Back, Bambi, Baron, Beechcraft, Boeing, Bucket, Clay, Conditions, Cost, Dash, Engines, Fatigue, Field, Fire, Fixed Wing, Float, Helicopters, Marines, Mars, Martin, Nozzle, Reaction, Redox, Retardant, Risk, Russian, Safety, Scoopers, Seaplane, SEAT, Squadron, Surface, Ton, Water Bombers, Weather

Yesterday's Answer: Generic

SALE: The topics of "Wonderword for Kids" appeal to younger fans but the puzzle-difficulty matches what you've come to expect from Wonderword. For a limited time, the book is on sale for just $4 each (U.S. funds only), payable to Universal Uclick. Include $3 postage for the first book order, $1 p&h for each additional book. Send to Wonderword, 1130 Walnut St., Kansas City, Mo. 64106 or call toll-free, 1-800-642-6480.

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Good Location. If interested, please call 287-7676

In Chull Kim
Gung Yup Jo
PMB 400, Box 10006
Saipan, MP 96950
Tel. No. (670) 483-7405

Pro Se

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In The Matter Of The Petitioner For Change of Name of SO EUN KIM, A Minor Child By: In Chull Kim Gung Yup Jo	)	FCD-CN CIVIL ACTION NO. 10-0082 **NOTICE OF HEARING**

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on the 17th day of March, 2010 at the hour of 9:00 a.m. in Courtroom 205A, before Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo.

Dated this 16th day of February, 2010.

BERNADITA SABLAN
Clerk of Court

/s/ By: Deputy Clerk of Court

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION, Plaintiff, -v-. CECILIA NAPUTI RIOS, Defendant.	)	CIVIL ACTION NO. 07-0425 SUMMONS FOR PUBLICATION

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANT:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is served upon you hereby, within twenty-one (21) days after the fourth publication of this Summons, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, the Plaintiff's Attorneys, whose address is P.O. Box 5222, Saipan, MP 96950, as soon as practicable after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at Susue, Saipan. It may be prepared and signed for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by Messenter or mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to answer in accordance with this Summons, judgement by default may be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

By order of the above court:

/s/ Deputy Clerk of Court

Dated, this 30th day of December, 2008.

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Office Hours: 8:30am-5:30pm, M-F daily
Saipan Tribune

CHANEL

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NMPASI
NORTHERN MARIANAS PROTECTION & ADVOCACY SYSTEMS, INC.

JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

POSITION: **ATTORNEY ["PART-TIME"]**
SALARY: **Negotiable**

OVERVIEW: The Northern Marianas Protection &, Advocacy Systems. Inc. (NMPASI), the state-designated agency for protection and advocacy services to individuals with disabilities, seeks to hire someone who is energetic and committed to the cause of insuring that individuals with disabilities are free from abuse, neglect and other forms of discrimination resulting from their disabilities.

GENERAL JOB DESCRIPTION:

This is an exempt professional position responsible for the day-to-day legal services for eligible clients as well as management and supervision of other program personnel assigned to provide lay-advocacy for individuals with disabilities. The Attorney will be selected by a panel of NMPASI personnel, will report to the Program Manager and willwork under limited supervision within prescribed standards, policies and procedures with considerable latitude for independent action and decisions.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:

- ✔ Graduation from a U.S. accredited college or university with a Juris Doctorate degree;
- ✔ Admitted to Practice Law in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and
- ✔ Demonstrated interpersonal skills which allow employee to maintain productive working relationships with co-workers, clients and other working professionals.

HOW TO APPLY:

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Reserves spark Suns' turnaround against Nuggets

PHOENIX (AP)— Amare Stoudemire had 19 points and 10 rebounds, and the reserves keyed a big second quarter for the Phoenix Suns in a 101-85 victory over the Denver Nuggets on Monday night.

Goran Dragic scored 10 first-half points off the bench and the reserves had 24 of 33 second-quarter points, when the Suns quickly erased an early double-digit deficit.

Grant Hill added 19 points and Channing Frye had 16 for the Suns, who won their fifth straight at home and their sixth in seven games overall. Phoenix has won 10 straight at home against the Nuggets dating to 2003-04.

Chauncey Billups scored 21 points, Carmelo Anthony had 17 and J.R. Smith added 16 for the Nuggets, who lost for the second time in two days. Denver had not lost consecutive games since dropping three straight from Dec. 25-28.

AP

Phoenix Suns guard Goran Dragic, right, of Slovenia, drives to the basket around Denver Nuggets forward Malik Allen, left, in the third quarter of an NBA basketball game Monday, March 1, 2010, in Phoenix.

Hawks 116, Bulls 92

In Chicago, Atlanta pulled away after being challenged in the fourth quarter and comfortably beat Chicago.

Jamal Crawford scored 21 points and Josh Smith added 17 points and a season-high 18 rebounds for the Hawks, whose 18-point, second-quarter lead was cut to five early in the fourth.

Derrick Rose led the Bulls with 24 points despite missing most of the first quarter after hurting his right knee.

Mavericks 89, Bobcats 84

In Charlotte, North Carolina, surging Dallas spoiled Charlotte's first game since Michael Jordan agree to buy the team.

Dirk Nowitzki scored 27 points and Jason Terry had several key late baskets for the Mavericks, who notched an eighth straight win despite trailing by 12 points in the third quarter.

Stephen Jackson scored 20 points, but also had six of Charlotte's 20 turnovers. The Bobcats dropped to 0-12 against the Mavericks, the only team they've never beaten.

Cavaliers 124, Knicks 93

In Cleveland, the hosts used a 74-point first half to hammer New York in the Cavaliers' first game since learning Shaquille O'Neal will miss the rest of the regular season.

The Cavs didn't miss the 15-time All-Star, who had surgery on his injured right thumb Monday and is expected to miss two months. The team is hopeful he will return for at least part of the playoffs.LeBron James had 22 points, seven rebounds and seven assists for Cleveland, which notched its biggest winning margin of the season.

The Cavaliers equaled a season high with its 74-point first half as well as outrebounding New York 60-31 and leading by as much as 49. They have won eight straight against New York.

Reserve Bill Walker scored 21 points for the Knicks.

Trail Blazers 103, Grizzlies 93

In Memphis, Tennessee, Portland erased a 14-point first-half deficit with a strong third quarter and defeated Memphis.

Brandon Roy scored 25 points and Nicolas Batum added 21 as the Trail Blazers ended their five-game road trip with four victories. They also solidified their hold on the Western Conference's eighth playoff spot.

The win was the seventh straight road win for Portland over the Grizzlies. Meanwhile, Memphis' home losing streak reached seven. Zach Randolph led the Grizzlies with 22 points.

Spurs 106, Hornets 92

In New Orleans, George Hill scored 23 points to lead San Antonio over New Orleans.

Tim Duncan added 22 points and nine rebounds for the Spurs, who shot 51 percent and led by 20 in the third quarter before holding on without much drama.

Hornets rookie Marcus Thornton was 6 of 7 from 3-point range, setting a career high for 3s in a game, and scored 30 points.

Magic 126, 76ers 105

In Philadelphia, Jameer Nelson had 22 points and 10 assists as Orlando downed Philadelphia.

All five starters scored at least 14 points for the Magic. They reached the 100-point mark late in the third quarter and kept the pressure on in the fourth to match their highest point total of the season.

Vince Carter and Rashard Lewis each scored 19 points.

The Sixers played without Elton Brand and Allen Iverson.

Clipper 108, Jazz 104

In Los Angeles, Los Angeles nearly blew a 17-point lead in the final 6 1/2 minutes before beating Utah.

Eric Gordon scored 13 of his 24 points in the fourth quarter and every Clippers starter reached double figures before the third quarter ended. Drew Gooden had 19 points and 11 rebounds, helping Los Angeles end a six-game losing streak against the Jazz.

Carlos Boozer scored 20 points for the Jazz.

Rockets 116, Raptors 92

In Houston, Kevin Martin and Aaron Brooks scored 28 points each in three quarters as Houston rolled to a win over struggling Toronto.

The Rockets led by 32 after three and both teams played mostly reserves the rest of the way.

The Raptors dropped their fourth in a row in their sixth straight game without injured All-Star Chris Bosh. Marcus Banks led Toronto with 15 points.

Jets to release RB Thomas Jones this week

NEW YORK (AP)—The New York Jets will release running back Thomas Jones this week, allowing the leader of the NFL's top-ranked rushing offense to become a free agent.

General manager Mike Tannenbaum said Monday that the team told Jones it will cut ties with him when the league's free agency period begins Friday.

"Thomas joined us three years ago and has been a productive, passionate leader both on and off the field who has served as a positive influence for our younger players," Tannenbaum said in a statement. "We were fortunate to acquire Thomas and wish him the best."

Jones was due a $3 million roster bonus on top of a $2.8 million base salary this season. He and the Jets failed to reach a compromise on restructuring his contract; the team wanted him to take a pay cut.

Drew Rosenhaus, Jones' agent, didn't immediately respond to e-mails seeking comment.

Jones sat out voluntary activities last offseason while trying unsuccessfully to renegotiate his deal, which was front-loaded with $13.1 million over the first two seasons. He made only $900,000 in base salary last season, but didn't allow it to affect his play.

The 31-year-old is coming off a season in which he set career highs by rushing for 1,402 yards and 14 touchdowns while helping the Jets reach the AFC championship game against Indianapolis. He was also a popular presence in the locker room, twice being voted the team's most inspirational player by his teammates.

Jones had a career-high 331 carries in the regular season and appeared to wear down a bit down the stretch as rookie Shonn Greene got the majority of carries. Still, with the game on the line against San Diego and the Jets facing fourth-and-1 late, coach Rex Ryan put the ball in Jones' hands to make a first down that clinched a trip to Indianapolis.

"When I got here, Thomas immediately became one of my guys," Ryan said in a statement. "He had one of his best years last season, might have been his best. I have a tremendous amount of respect for him as a player and a person. This is one of the tough decisions we had to make for our organization."

Jones' departure leaves Greene, the team's third-round pick last year, as the likely starter in the backfield. The Jets also anticipate having a healthy Leon Washington, who's recovering from a broken right leg that sidelined him for the last nine games of the regular season and the playoffs.

New York might also consider adding a veteran free-agent backup, perhaps Chester Taylor or Mike Bell, to add some depth.

Jones is the latest big-name running back to hit the free agent market after San Diego recently released LaDainian Tomlinson, Philadelphia let go of Brian Westbrook and Cleveland cut ties with Jamal Lewis.

Vancouver atmosphere will be tough to match

AP

Fireworks explode over the BC Place after the closing ceremony of the Vancouver Winter Olympics in Vancouver, British Columbia, Sunday, Feb. 28, 2010.

VANCOUVER, British Columbia (AP)—Top that if you can.

Amid the tragedy, the medals race and the hockey frenzy, the Vancouver Olympics will be remembered above all for the fervor and ebullience of its Canadian hosts.

For future Olympic host cities London, Sochi and Rio de Janeiro, matching Vancouver's festive atmosphere will be a tough act to follow.

"The way Vancouver embraced these games was extraordinary," International Olympic Committee president Jacques Rogge said. "I've never seen anything on this scale before. This is really something unique."

Rogge and other IOC officials were unanimous in their verdict that Vancouver delivered the greatest ambiance and public enthusiasm of any Winter Games since the magical 1994 Games in tiny Lillehammer, Norway. Vancouver's joyous mood also has been compared with the 2000 Summer Games in Sydney.

"Future organizers know that there is really a need to create this kind of big embrace," Rogge said. "It's something you can't create on a piece of paper."

Despite the death of Georgian luger Nodar Kumaritashvili in a training crash on the day of the opening ceremony and a rash of glitches and weather problems in the first few days, Vancouver lifted the Winter Games to a whole new level.

The streets were filled with partying spectators, the venues were packed with cheering fans and the entire country seem united for two weeks behind a single cause.

"For the first time, the Winter Olympic Games are on equal footing with a Summer Olympic Games," said Kevan Gosper, a senior IOC member from Australia. "When we look back, we can say Vancouver is where we could start comparing Winter Games with Summer Games and not just winter with winter and summer with summer."

The Winter Olympics, which debuted in 1924, were given their own identity when the IOC changed the cycle to put the Summer and Winter Games in different years starting in 1994.

Next up is London, which will host the 2012 Summer Games, becoming the first city to stage the Olympics for a third time. London also held the Olympics in 1908 and 1948.

London's project is based on renovating a downtrodden part of east London into a showpiece Olympic park. London's West End and other areas should be a magnet for nightlife and party atmosphere. As in Vancouver, live sites will be set up around the city for fans to watch events on big screens and enjoy musical entertainment.

Sebastian Coe, leader of the London organizing committee, was particularly impressed with the full venues and public spirit in Vancouver.

"Not since Sydney have I seen a city embrace the games the way they've been embraced here," Coe said. "My gut instinct is that is what these games will be remembered for. I haven't been anywhere where there's been an empty seat in the house. And the people look like they want to be there."

In 2012, Coe said he expects around 250,000 fans to flock into the Olympic Park every day, and at least an additional 1 million people to come to the city for the games.

London is the next Summer Games after the spectacular Olympics in Beijing, but Coe and others prefer not to make any comparisons.

"We will never see a games like Beijing again," Coe said. "That's not typical of the way games are going to be delivered. You take from Beijing the extraordinary obsession with detail and eye for delivery. You take from Sydney the party atmosphere and here the party atmosphere and engagement. These are all things you need to bring together for a games."

Gosper said Vancouver is more of a benchmark for London than Beijing.

"Beijing was a spike, with huge amounts of money thrown at the games," he said. "It was a bit of an aberration. Vancouver has brought us back to the norm and provided a more realistic backdrop for London than Beijing."

Sochi, a Black Sea resort, is hosting Russia's first Winter Games in 2014. Organizing committee chief Dmitry Chernyshenko said Sochi will do its best to match Vancouver.

"The Canadian atmosphere here is electric," Chernyshenko said. "That is exactly what we want to reach in Russia. We will do it with a Russian touch, a Russian look without the stereotypes."

Another priority for Sochi is recruiting volunteers. Vancouver organizers brought in about 25,000 volunteers, who won rave reviews for their smiling hospitality. Russia doesn't have a tradition of volunteerism, but is recruiting volunteers from all over the country.

Another crucial factor for future host cities: the success of the home team. Having never won a gold medal at two previous Olympics on home soil (Montreal 1976 and Calgary 1988), Canada piled up 14 golds in Vancouver—an all-time Winter Games record.

Most fitting of all was the way the Canadians got the record—beating the United States in the men's hockey final 3-2 with a sudden-death overtime goal by Sidney Crosby on Sunday in the final event of the games in the sport Canadians love most.

"The games started out with a nightmare and ended up with a golden dream," Gosper said. "The interest in the home country performance here was remarkable."

Britain finished fourth in the medals table in Beijing and will hope for at least the same result at home in 2012.

"I can understand why a country would want to deliver the best-trained athletes at a games," Coe said. "It's not just important for domestic fortunes, it also sets the tone and style for the games and the excitement in those venues.

"Do we want to get great big British moments and a good haul of medals in London? Yes we do."

By contrast, Sochi organizers are counting on a much better showing from Russian athletes. They had only three golds among 15 medals in Vancouver and finished sixth in the standings—the only time they have been out of the top five since the Soviet Union first competed in the Winter Games in 1956.

"I wouldn't underestimate the Russians," Gosper said. "Somehow or the other, I believe Sochi will rise to the occasion. But Vancouver has raised the bar very high."

A-Rod to be questioned in Canadian doctor probe

TAMPA, Fla. (AP)—Yankees star Alex Rodriguez has been contacted by federal investigators regarding a Canadian doctor accused of selling an unapproved drug.

Rodriguez said Monday he was "aware" of the investigation and plans on cooperating with government officials who are looking into Dr. Anthony Galea. Rodriguez said a date for an interview has not been set.

"I can't really get into that," Rodriguez said. "I have to speak to those guys first. I've just got to wait for instructions."

Galea is facing four charges in his country related to the drug known as Actovegin, which is extracted from calf's blood and used for healing. His assistant also has been charged in the U.S. for having HGH and another drug while crossing the border in September.

A-Rod said the probe won't have an effect on him because "this is about someone else." He declined comment when asked if he has even been treated by Galea.

"I'm focused on baseball," Rodriguez said.

New York general Brian Cashman was informed of the situation Monday, and added that he has not been told about any other Yankees' players being involved.

"Not aware of any," Cashman said.

The Yankees released a statement saying they had not been contacted about the matter.

"The Yankees never authorized Dr. Tony Galea to treat Alex Rodriguez, nor do we have any knowledge of any such treatment," the statement said. "We will continue to monitor the situation."

Cashman said the Yankees have not had any dealings with Galea. He declined comment on Rodriguez's situation, saying "I don't have much to comment off of."

It had been uneventful start of the new season—except for a minor car accident that caused no damage or injuries—for Rodriguez.

Last year, he started spring training by addressing his use of performance-enhancing drugs and underwent right hip surgery in March that sidelined him until May 8. The third baseman then put together a 30-homer, 100-RBI season that ended with the Yankees winning their first World Series title since 2000.

Galea is known for using a blood-spinning technique—platelet-rich plasma therapy—designed to speed recovery from injuries. Among the athletes he has treated are golf superstar Tiger Woods and Mets shortstop Jose Reyes.

Reyes said Sunday he met with federal investigators last week.

Galea was arrested Oct. 15 after a search warrant was executed at the Institute of Sports Medicine Health and Wellness Centre near Toronto. He is charged with selling Actovegin, conspiracy to import an unapproved drug, conspiracy to export a drug and smuggling goods into Canada.

His lawyer, Brian H. Greenspan, has said his client denies any wrongdoing. Greenspan also has said Galea has used HGH himself and prescribed it to non-athlete patients over the age of 40 to improve their quality of life, but said he has never given it to athletes.

The investigation into Galea began when his assistant, who often drove for the doctor, was stopped attempting to enter the United States from Canada.

Vials and ampules containing human growth hormone and Actovegin were found in a car driven by Mary Anne Catalano, according to the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and U.S. federal court documents.

Catalano, a Canadian, told American authorities at the border in Buffalo, N.Y., that she knew the drugs were illegal and that she was transporting them for her employer.

According to an affidavit, Catalano also told authorities that her boss instructed her to say she was coming to a medical conference if she were questioned about the purpose of her trip and also to say that none of the equipment was for treating patients.

Crime Stoppers softball tourney this weekend

NMI Crime Stoppers will hold its 8th Annual NMI Softball Tournament on March 6 and 7.

The tournament will be played at the Capital Hill Ball Park from 9am to 4pm on both days.

Teams signed up and scheduled to play are DFS Saipan, Docomo Pacific, IT&E, Megabyte, Pacific Islands Club, Pacific Trading Company, Shell Marianas, and Wells Fargo Financial.

Proceeds from the tournament will go toward keeping Crime Stoppers' local program functioning by providing funds for the operating costs and rewards.

Last year, Team The Set/Natara was crowned champion of the 7th Annual Crime Stoppers Softball Tournament after outsmarting Team Becks/No Zone in the finals, 6-3, at the Capital Hill Ballfield.

Since it's inception in 1989, the NMI Crime Stoppers program has provided tips to law enforcement agencies allowing law enforcement to arrest over 200 criminals. Law enforcement agencies have recovered over $200,000 worth of stolen property and seized over $2,448,000 worth of illegal drugs.

Over 300 individual criminal cases have been cleared. For these results the NMI Crime Stoppers Program has paid out $20,000 in rewards over the years. The program works and that it "is" cost effective. The NMI Crime Stoppers Board of Directors is made of men and women volunteers, whose mandate is to maintain the anonymous tips line and work with the community, media and law enforcement in getting criminals off the streets of the NMI.

The organization relies on donations from the community to keep the program operational and the following sponsors have each donated significantly to its annual softball fundraiser.

They are DFS Saipan, Docomo Pacific, IT&E, Marianas Cable Vision, Megabyte, Pacific Islands Club, Pacific Trading Company, Shell Marianas, and Wells Fargo Financial.

"We want to sincerely thank each of these sponsors for committing to make a great difference in our community. In addition we wish to thank our partners in law enforcement, the media, and anonymous callers that provide the tips we need to solve crime in the CNMI," read a statement from NMI Crime Stoppers.

Any business or individual who would like to make a donation, contact James Matsumoto at 235-6030. ***(PR)***

AYUYUS

From Page 28

seemed the Ayuyus were walking away with murder when they led, 14-0.

Southern was scoreless in the first 14:09 of the game, as it either failed to set-up its half-court offense or go for fastbreak plays.

The Rays finally broke their silence when siblings Nicko and Nevin Salem teamed up for a fastbreak play with the former making a baseball pass to the latter, who canned an easy layup.

Nevin Salem sparked the Rays comeback and after 12 minutes of play, Southern was still in the tick of the fight, trailing by only four, 15-19.

The Rays rode on their newfound momentum in the second half, as they grabbed the lead for the first time on Nevin Salem's jumper, 25-23, midway into the final canto.

However, that was the only time Southern had the driver's seat, as Josh Jones, Savali Talelemotu, and John Norita took over for Kagman to foil the Rays' bid for a three-peat.

Jones top-scored for Kagman with 17 points, while Talalemoto and Norita added 13 and 10, respectively.

Chris Mizer led Southern's losing cause, nailing 11 markers.

Rays vs Ayuyus in varsity finals

In today's varsity finals, Kagman will go for a sweep as it collides with Southern in the title match.

The Ayuyus booked the second finals ticket in the varsity division after whipping Grace Christian Academy in the semi-finals on Monday, 75-48.

Kagman is aiming for its first championship in the varsity division. The Ayuyus lost to the MHS Dolphins last season, while the Rays last won the championship in 2008.

Junior Varsity Finals

KHS 48 – Jones 17, Talalemotu 13, Norita 10, Mettao 5, Taitano 2, Pineda 2.

SSHS 41 – Mizer 11, Ni. Salem 10, Ne. Salem 8, Oei 4, Sablan 4, Alegre 2, Tudela 2.

Scoring by halves: 19-15, 48-41.

Varsity Semis

KHS 75 – Maratita 16, Hossain 16, Brel 15, Faisao 8, Norita 8, Ogo 4, Reyes 4, Manglona 4.

GCA 48 – Jeon 15, Hong 11, Salas 10, De Leon 6, Choi 4.

Scoring by halves: 37-28, 75-48.

NEW

From Page 28

making 180 pinfalls. She closed out with 158, 178, and 156 pinfalls in the last three games for an average of 168.25 pinfalls.

Gutierrez also joined the tournament for two days and his second-day score won him the monthly plum. He tallied 780 pinfalls on Monday, 102 pinfalls more of his Sunday total of 678. Gutierrez knocked down more than 200 pins twice (234 and 209 in Games 2 and 4) and recorded 152 and 185 in Games 1 and 3, respectively, for an average of 195.

Russelle Zapanta's Sunday's best score of 761 pinfalls landed him in second place, while younger brother, Raymond, finished third with a four-game total of 748 pinfalls. Completing the Top 5 were Percy Omechelang (747 pinfalls) and Richard Leong (742).

The January roll-off winners, Gina Sablan and Alex Castro, missed the second monthly tournament.

In the Fiji Prince/Princess of the Lanes tournament, January champion Marion McKenzie finished only third behind M.J. Aldan and Cruz.

Cruz logged a four-game total of 643 pinfalls, Aldan posted 626, while McKenzie submitted 618.

Other youth keglers who joined the tournament were Leeanne Yarobwemal (617), Nikko Gutierrez (559), and Troy Verdaguer (537).

BIGGEST

From Page 28

several years ago. Last fall, we had nearly 500," youth league director Lydia Tan said in an interview with *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

"We are very excited to start the year with a record number of participants, as this shows every season, the youth football community is growing," Tan added.

NMIFA general secretary Ed Salas said having a record number of youth players is good news, as there will me more talents to hone and tap for future competitions on and off-island.

"This league is our grassroots program. Every season, the number grows and we get to see new talents every year. We, at NMIFA, can't help but feel upbeat at the prospect of having over 500 youth players for the youth league," Salas said.

The record number of participants will come from the five football clubs on the island: Matansa Football Club, MP United, Paire Football Club, Independents Football Club, and Tan Holdings Football Club.

The spring league will have 50 teams with 17 of them playing in a very competitive environment, or in the 14-and-under and 18-and-under age groups. These two age groups will have separate competitions for male and female players. The U6, U8, and U11 age groups will have a co-ed format and will focus more on the fun part of football and the concept of teamwork rather than the competition itself.

The U11 and U14 divisions are new ones, replacing the U10 and U13, as the youth committee believes changes in the age group competition will benefit U14 players who are not yet ready to move up to U18 and U10 advanced players who are all set to slug it out with U11's bets.

Besides the slight changes in age group competitions, Tan said there is also a modification in the schedule of the football festival, which is the culmination of the spring league.

Instead of the usual one-day festival for all age groups, the event will be held in three-parts, giving each age group division equal footing. The co-ed U6, U8, and U11 will have their football festival on May 1, the U14 will have theirs on May 8, while U18's is set for May 15.

"The U8, U6, and U11 will have the whole day to enjoy the various activities during the festival. Before, they had only the morning session for them, as older players were scheduled to play in the afternoon, now everybody will have the opportunity to enjoy the whole-day affair," Tan added.

Games in each age group will be played every Saturday at the following field; CPA, Hopwood, San Vicente, GTC, San Antonio, Southern High School, Garapan, and Navy Hill.

Various clubs are still accepting players for their respective teams.

For more information, see contact details below.

Tan Holdings FC: Ariel Mariano at 233-3898 or e-mail ariel_mariano@tanholdings.com

MP United FC: Tina Goodwin at 322-2071 or e-mail at tina@saipan.com

Matansa FC: Joven Cruz at 888-7995 or e-mail at joven_cruz@ctsispn.com

Paire FC: Rebecca Newman at pairefc@gmail.com

Independents FC: Greg Borja at coachsvs@pticom.com.

MBI

From Page 28

crucial free throws in Fiesta's loss to Advance, redeemed himself with a 23-point production against Hard Rock. Esdrelon's consistent offense in the first half allowed Fiesta to take control of the match.

Esdrelon made 10 points in the first period, giving Fiesta an 18-12 lead, and he then canned three triples in the second canto, increasing the advantage to double digits at the break, 40-29.

In the second half, Fiesta had the luxury of using its bench players, who responded with at least a basket each. Excluding Esdrelon, Fiesta had 11 other players making it to the scoreboard and handing Hard Rock a 0-4 record.

In the second game, MBI extended its winning run to five after getting 36 points from Ivan De Vero. De Vero exploded for 26 points in the first half against some of his old teammates in TBK to keep the match tight.

De Vero had 13 points in the first quarter to lift MBI to a 23-22 lead. Favor changed in the second period with TBK on top, 48-47, despite another 13-point performance from De Vero. TBK grabbed the lead at the break after getting 11 second-quarter points from Kae Bernardo.

In the third period, De Vero found allies in R.J. Nonato and Noel David, as the trio scored six points each putting MBI back into the lead, 67-63, entering the final canto.

MBI increased the lead to as high as nine points entering the finals four-minute mark before TBK made several attempts to recover. However, each time TBK closed in, MBI always found ways to hit rally-halting baskets.

TBK absorbed its second straight defeat.

First Game

Fiesta 75 – Esdrelon 23, J. Ong 10, Usi 10, Macoto 6, De la Torre 6, Rabago 5, R. Ong 4, Jinang 3, Moran 2, Mejia 2, Carino 2.

Hard Rock 63 – Tengco 18, Mendoza 14, Tiamzon 11, Paraiso 9, Dionisio 5, Daprosa 3, Nunag 2, Besmonte 2.

Scoring by quarters: 18-12, 40-29, 60-49, 75-63.

Second Game

MBI 88 – De Vero 36, David 16, Nonato 12, Muleta 6, Trajano 4, Achas 4, Penalosa 2, Cabrera 2, Viola 1.

TBK 81 – Bernardo 26, Castro 16, Capalad 15, Pantaleon 11, De Vero 8, Demapan 1, Laquian 1.

Scoring by quarters: 23-22, 47-48, 67-63, 88-83.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	36	21	.632	–
Toronto	31	28	.525	6
Philadelphia	22	37	.373	15
New York	20	39	.339	17
New Jersey	6	53	.102	31

Southeast Division

Orlando	41	20	.672	–
Atlanta	38	21	.644	2
Miami	29	31	.483	11 1/2
Charlotte	28	30	.483	11 1/2
Washington	21	36	.368	18

Central Division

Cleveland	47	14	.770	–
Chicago	31	29	.517	15 1/2
Milwaukee	30	29	.508	16
Detroit	21	38	.356	25
Indiana	20	39	.339	26

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

Dallas	40	21	.656	–
San Antonio	34	24	.586	4 1/2
Houston	30	29	.508	9
New Orleans	31	30	.508	9
Memphis	30	30	.500	9 1/2

Northwest Division

Denver	39	21	.650	–
Utah	38	22	.633	1
Oklahoma City	35	23	.603	3
Portland	36	27	.571	4 1/2
Minnesota	14	47	.230	25 1/2

Pacific Division

L.A. Lakers	45	15	.750	–
Phoenix	38	24	.613	8
L.A. Clippers	25	35	.417	20
Sacramento	20	39	.339	24 1/2
Golden State	17	41	.293	27

Yesterday's Games

Dallas 89, Charlotte 84
Cleveland 124, New York 93
Orlando 126, Philadelphia 105
Atlanta 116, Chicago 92
Portland 103, Memphis 93
San Antonio 106, New Orleans 92
Houston 116, Toronto 92
Phoenix 101, Denver 85
L.A. Clippers 108, Utah 104

NBA LEADERS

Scoring

	G	FG	FT	PTS	AVG
James, CLE	60	606	480	1802	30.0
Durant, OKC	58	564	505	1721	29.7
Anthony, DEN	46	452	380	1326	28.8
Bryant, LAL	55	559	320	1511	27.5
Wade, MIA	56	514	374	1457	26.0
Ellis, GOL	52	520	244	1335	25.7
Nowitzki, DAL	59	531	393	1487	25.2
Bosh, TOR	53	463	368	1300	24.5
Johnson, ATL	58	500	167	1268	21.9
Stoudemire, PHX	61	502	324	1329	21.8
Jackson, CHA	57	436	238	1200	21.1
Randolph, MEM	59	488	234	1218	20.6
Evans, SAC	54	404	266	1100	20.4
Lee, NYK	58	500	181	1181	20.4
Rose, CHI	59	502	187	1197	20.3
Maggette, GOL	50	324	355	1013	20.3
Billups, DEN	50	281	329	1010	20.2
Gay, MEM	57	443	216	1149	20.2
Boozer, UTA	56	442	215	1099	19.6
Brooks, HOU	58	403	184	1135	19.6

FG Percentage

	FG	FGA	PCT
Perkins, BOS	247	402	.614
Howard, ORL	367	610	.602
Hilario, DEN	307	524	.586
Gasol, MEM	330	568	.581
Millsap, UTA	280	491	.570
Bynum, LAL	342	602	.568
Haywood, DAL	223	393	.567
O'Neal, CLE	262	463	.566
Lee, NYK	500	897	.557
Boozer, UTA	442	797	.555

Rebounds

	G	OFF	DEF	TOT	AVG
Howard, ORL	60	210	590	800	13.3
Randolph, MEM	59	258	445	703	11.9
Camby, POR	56	183	474	657	11.7
Lee, NYK	58	155	513	668	11.5
Bosh, TOR	53	159	446	605	11.4
Boozer, UTA	56	124	501	625	11.2
Duncan, SAN	54	178	414	592	11.0
Wallace, CHA	55	114	474	588	10.7
Bogut, MIL	53	167	387	554	10.5
Haywood, DAL	57	231	360	591	10.4

Assists

	G	AST	AVG
Nash, PHX	60	673	11.2
Paul, NOR	38	424	11.2
Williams, UTA	53	535	10.1
Rondo, BOS	56	558	10.0
Kidd, DAL	59	548	9.3
James, CLE	60	510	8.5
Westbrook, OKC	58	456	7.9
Davis, LAC	57	447	7.8
Harris, NJN	43	293	6.8
Wade, MIA	56	357	6.4

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOCAL SCORES

SHIRLEY'S STANDINGS

MBI	5	0
World Resort	4	0
Aqua Resort	4	1
Fiesta Resort	4	1
Pacific Islands Club	2	1
Mobil	2	1
TBK	2	2
AON/NJ Plus	2	2
Shirley's	2	3
Pepsi	1	2
McGraw-Hill	1	2
Docomo/SGH	0	3
Bank of Guam	0	3
Hard Rock	0	4
Cell Pro	0	4

18th Annual Marianas Cup Beach Volleyball Festival

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO

U.S. Pro Paul Baxter struggles, left, to chase the ball while teammate Jon Cramer looks on during one of their pool play game in the men's doubles division of the 18th Annual Marianas Cup Beach Volleyball Festival played over the weekend on the Pacific Islands Club sand court.

John Nekaifes goes for a return, while teammate J.R. Gechig waits for the next play.

U.S. pro Claire D'Amore in action during her and teammate Heather Kennedy's game in the pool play.

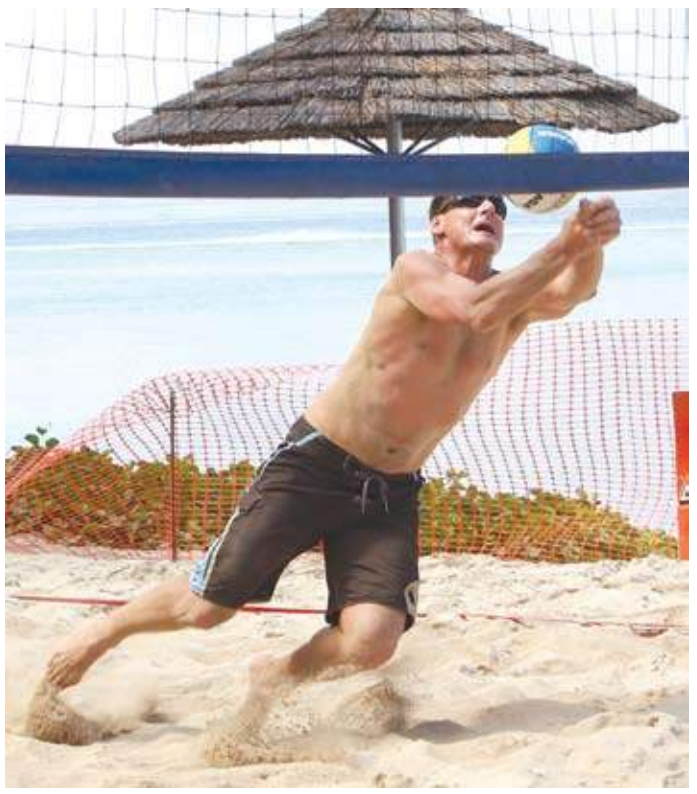
U.S. pro Jenn Snyder, who teamed up with Nicole LeBlanc, serves.

U.S. pro Andrew Fuller towers above the net.

Amber Roberts prepares to serve.

Nick Gross serves after teammate Rob Epley gave him a signal.

Russ Quinn stretches to make a return.



Bruce Berline reaches in for the ball near the net.

Luther Taylor goes for a spike, while teammate Dan Westphal looks on.

Reserves spark Suns' turnaround against Nuggets

PAGE 24

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Vancouver atmosphere will be tough to match

PAGE 25

Ayuyus clinch junior varsity crown

The Kagman Ayuyus flash the No.1 sign after beating Saipan Southern High School in the finals of the junior varsity division of the MISO caging on Monday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Kagman High School clinched its first junior varsity championship after outclassing Saipan Southern High School in their title match, 48-41, in the 2009-2010 Marianas Interscholastic Sports Organization Basketball League on Monday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

The Ayuyus' victory ended the Rays' two-year reign in the junior varsity division of the MISO caging and avenged Kagman's loss to Southern in last season's finals.

"It felt great to finally take the championship away from Southern. We had a great season, everybody came out to play their best game and enjoy each match," Kagman coach Francis San Nicolas said.

Kagman was undefeated in the three-team league and drew a bye in the first round of the playoffs before facing the Rays in the one-game only finals.

At the start of the title match, it

See AYUYUS on Page 26

MBI gains top ranking; Fiesta bounces back

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

MBI/Dial Full Force's Pando Muleta goes up for a shot against TBK Auto Shop's Raymark Castro during their game in the Shirley's caging on Monday at the JP Center Basketball Court.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Micronesian Brokers, Inc/Dial Fresh Full Force took the solo lead in the 2nd Annual Shirley's Coffee Shop Invitational Basketball League, while Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan regained its winning form after thwarting separate foes on Monday at the JP Center Basketball Court.

Fiesta played in the curtain-raiser and downed Hard Rock Café, 75-63, while MBI defeated TBK Auto Shop, 88-81. The victory was Fiesta's fourth, helping the team recover from a disappointing 89-90 loss to Advance/World Resort last week. MBI improved to a 5-0 slate to keep the No. 1 spot in the 15-team field.

Elmer Esdrelon, who missed two

See MBI on Page 26

New winners in February roll-offs

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

There were no early back-to-back winners in Saipan Bowling Association's monthly roll-offs, as Tess Sablan, Jared Gutierrez, and Zack Cruz won for the first time by topping the February tournament.

Sablan was named Budweiser Queen of the Lanes for February after besting nine other female keglers. Gutierrez took the King of the Lanes title for the same month, beating 14 other participants, while Cruz defeated five other youth bowlers for the Fiji Water Prince of the Lanes crown.

Sablan bowled twice, but had her guns smoking on the last day of the tournament on Monday, knocking down 673 pins. She won by 10 pinfalls against Gigi Zapanta (663) and 14 pinfalls over third placer Ron Cal (659). Sablan first bowled on Sunday, but her 572 pinfalls was only second best that day. When she returned on the second day, Sablan was off to a strong start,

See NEW on Page 26

Cruz

Sablan

Gutierrez

Biggest youth football league to kick off Saturday

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The 2010 NMIFA Youth Football Spring League will open shop this Saturday at various fields on Saipan with Northern Mariana Islands Football Association expecting a record number of between 500 to 530 participants.

"This is the biggest so far since we started having youth leagues

See BIGGEST on Page 26

Paire Footbal Club's Danny Auther in action during last fall's youth football festival. Northern Mariana Islands Football Association will kick off its spring league this Saturday.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO